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ABSTRACT

This Kids Count report examines statewide trends in the well-being of Minnesota's children. The statistical portrait is based on 12 indicators of well-being: (1) child poverty rate; (2) children in families receiving food stamps; (3) children eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch; (4) births to teenage mothers; (5) low birth weight rates; (6) children not immunized by age 2; (7) school readiness problems; (8) drop out rates; (9) children arrested for serious crime; (10) child abuse and neglect rates; (11) children in out-of-home placements; (12) children dying violently. Following an introduction detailing the major findings, the report provides regional and statewide statistical summaries for each indicator, discusses the importance of the indicator, describes potential improvement strategies, provides information on resources related to the indicator, and describes Minnesota trends. Minnesota data are compared to national findings for each indicator. The bulk of the report provides statistical information on the indicators for each county. Findings indicated that 1 in 8 Minnesota children continue to live in poverty, with child poverty rates related to ethnicity, family structure, residence location, and parent education. Although the teen birth rate has been declining, the school dropout and school completion rates continue to worsen, and sizable numbers of children are not ready to learn when they enter school. The report concludes with definitions of the indicators and their sources. (KB)

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Minnesota Kids: A Closer Look
1999 Data Book

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kids count minnesota

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1999 Data Book

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Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota

DEAR LORD
BE GOOD TO ME
THE SEA IS SO
WIDE AND
MY BOAT IS
SO SMALL

Children's Defense Fund

Minnesota KIDS COUNT is a joint project of the
Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota
and
Congregations Concerned for Children-Child Advocacy Network
at the **Joint Religious Legislative Coalition**.

Minnesota KIDS COUNT releases periodic reports and an annual data book to provide a statistical profile of Minnesota's children and suggestions for action on their behalf. This data book was made possible through funds provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgments ii

Introduction 1

How to Use This Book 5

Section 1: Indicators of Risk

- Family Economics 6
  - Children in Poverty 7
  - Children Receiving Food Stamps 8
  - Children Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch 9
- Starting Out 10
  - Children Born to Teenage Mothers 11
  - Children Born at Low Birth Weight 12
  - Children Not Immunized by Age 2 13
  - Children with School Readiness Problems 14
- Signs of Trouble 16
  - Children Dropping Out of School 17
  - Children Arrested for Serious Crime 18
  - Children Abused and Neglected 19
  - Children in Out-of-Home Placements 20
  - Children Dying Violently 21

Section 2: County Profiles

- Statewide Profile 23
- County Profiles 24-110

Data Notes 111

10

11

INTRODUCTION

The 1999 KIDS COUNT Data book tells a story about children in Minnesota by how they are faring on twelve indicators of child wellbeing. Combined with community knowledge and experience, this data can inform our services, planning and policymaking so that all Minnesota children grow up healthy, happy and able to fulfill their potential.

Underlying many of these indicators is the reality that **one in eight Minnesota children continue to live in poverty**. Growing up poor continues to result in worse educational, health and social outcomes for many of these children.

Poverty Trends

- Child poverty in Minnesota held steady through the first part of the 1990's, and then decreased between 1993 and 1995. The percentage of children receiving food stamps also decreased (food stamp eligibility is set at 135% of the poverty line). However, the percentage of children receiving free and reduced price school lunch, which has an income cut-off at 185% of poverty, did not decrease.
- More poor children live in suburbs and rural areas than in inner cities. Fifty-one percent of all poor children in Minnesota, according to 1995 Census Bureau estimates, live in the 80 Greater Minnesota counties (as compared to 48% of all children.) Eleven percent live in the suburban metro counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Scott and Washington, (which contain 22% of all children) and the remaining thirty-eight percent live in Hennepin and Ramsey counties (which have 30% of all children.)
- Children of color are much more likely to be poor. Nationally in 1996, nearly 40% of African-American and Hispanic children were poor as compared to 16% of white children. Poverty rates for African-Americans as a whole have dropped from 31% in 1989 to a record low of 26% in 1997. Still, that is much greater than the overall poverty rate of 8.6% for white people.
    - Thirty-three percent of all female-headed families were poor, more than five times the rate of married couple families. The highest poverty rate is for children under age six who live in female-headed single parent families. Their poverty rate was 59% in 1997.

What is the Poverty Line?

(Federal Poverty Guidelines, 1998)

Family Size	Monthly Income	Annual Income	135% of poverty	185% of poverty
2	$ 904	$10,850	$14,648	$20,073
3	$1,138	$13,650	$18,428	$25,253
4	$1,371	$16,450	$22,208	$30,433
5	$1,604	$19,250	$25,988	$35,613

Introduction, continued on p. 2

INTRODUCTION, continued

- Child poverty rates vary greatly among states and among Minnesota regions and counties. Minnesota ranked tenth best among all states in 1995 for the number of children living in poverty, and rates range from 10% in New Hampshire and Utah, to 35% in Louisiana. 1995 estimates show a range in Minnesota counties from 4% to 25%.
- People with more education are less likely to be poor. Among adults ages 25 to 54, one out of three high school dropouts was poor in 1994, compared with just over 1 in 10 high school graduates, and 1 out of 30 college graduates.
- The population of families below the poverty line changes over time. About a third of those who are below the poverty line in a given year will be above it by the following year. About 12% of poor families stay poor for five or more years.
- Many poor families work. Forty percent of poor adults worked in 1996. Many poor people do not work because they are children (40%) or seniors (10%). Eleven percent of all working families were still poor because their wages were too low to raise them above the poverty line.
- Income inequality in the United States continues to increase. The top five percent of households received 22% of the national income in 1997, the highest level on record. The average income of the top five percent of families grew almost 6% in 1997, while the income gains of the bottom four-fifths of families was between 2.6 and 3%.

Snapshots of America's Families

A 1998 Urban Institute survey of families in Minnesota and the United States revealed persistent differences between families as a whole and lower-income families (below 200% of the poverty line.)

INDICATOR	**All Minnesota Families**	**Minnesota Families Below 200% of Poverty**
Families with incomes below 200% of poverty ($32,000 for a family of 4)	24%	
Parents reporting problems paying for housing or utilities	13%	28%
Children in families that worried about or had difficulty affording food	24%	50%
Children with no health insurance	6%	13%
Children living in single parent families	20%	
Children living with a parent whose symptoms suggest poor mental health	14%	24%
Children (age 1-5) read to/told stories 3 or more days per week	87%	82%
Children (age 6-17) highly engaged in school	40%	35%
Children (age 6-17) participating in extracurricular activities	86%	75%

Children in low-income families were less likely to be read to or told stories, or to be engaged in school and extra curricular activities. They were more likely to live in families with parents experiencing symptoms of mental illness, and to have problems affording basic needs. The Urban Institute's National Survey of America's Families (http://www.urban.org) will be repeated in future years to help monitor the impact of welfare reform policies.

Improving Outcomes

A recent study conducted at the University of Wisconsin tried to identify the most important factors to address to improve outcomes for all children. They had the following suggestions:

- Help increase the educational attainment of the next set of the nation's parents. (Having higher educated parents increases the likelihood of children graduating, not having teen births, and future employment.)
- Encourage women's work outside the home when children are of school age. (Adolescent children in homes with working mothers are more likely to complete school and become employed in their 20's.)
- Provide support and counseling for children from families that have experienced multiple stresses, such as parental separations and household moves. (Both of these factors are highly correlated with children's problems.)

In addition, policies that promote stable and affordable housing and healthy family functioning would also address these issues.

Other Child Wellbeing Indicators of Note

Teen births in Minnesota are declining. In 1997, 2,011 children were born to mothers under 18 in Minnesota. The 1995-1997 birth rate of 18 per 1000 was 18% lower than the 1993-95 birth rate. However, recently available national data suggests that birth rates for African-American and Hispanic teens in Minnesota remain among the highest in the country.

Experts cannot identify any single reason for the decrease, but rather point to a constellation of factors. These include a decrease in sexual activity among teens, increased use of birth control by sexually active teens including long-lasting contraceptive methods such as Norplant and Depo-Provera, increased education and concern about sexually transmitted diseases, especially AIDS, and a stronger economy, with better job prospects for young people.

Minnesota has been at the forefront of many community efforts to reduce teen pregnancies and births. These efforts should continue so that this positive trend for Minnesota children continues.

Introduction, continued on p. 4

INTRODUCTION, continued

School dropout rates and completion rates continue to worsen. More than one in nine Minnesota students do not complete high school. More than one fifth do not finish high school on time. Yearly dropout rates have increased slowly but surely for almost every region of the state. Rates for African-American, American Indian, and Hispanic students continue to be far greater than those of white students.

This data, when combined with a recent study from MN House of Representatives Research finding that fewer Minnesota students are going to post-secondary education, raises concerns about meeting the needs for Minnesota's future work force. The Minnesota Department of Economic Security estimates that the state will need almost one million new workers by 2005. These workers will need to be trained and educated in order to fill those jobs.

Sizeable numbers of children are coming to school not ready to learn. For the first time this year, Minnesota KIDS COUNT analyzed some newly available data from the state's Early Childhood Screening program. Although accurate data was not available from all districts, about 23% of three and four year olds were identified with problems that could interfere with their growth, development and learning. These included problems with vision and hearing, cognitive, social/emotional, fine/gross motor, and speech language developmental problems; lack of appropriate immunizations; and other health problems that could interfere with learning.

For more information about how to become involved in efforts to improve the lives of Minnesota's children, please contact Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota. Visit CDF's web site at http://www.cdf-mn.org, or call CDF at (651) 227-6121 and ask to receive the free monthly newsletter.

To become involved in child advocacy through your religious congregation, please call Congregations Concerned for Children at 612/870-2670.

Cost of Living

(Estimated Statewide Costs, 1997)

Family Size 2 (Parent + 1 child)	
Food	$ 266
Housing	$ 550
Health Care	$ 213
Transportation	$ 186
Child Care	$ 261
Clothing/misc.	$ 167
Annual total:	$ 19,714
Annual gross earnings needed:	$ 21,685

Family Size 4 (2 adults + 2 children)	
Food	$ 502
Housing	$ 730
Health Care	$ 290
Transportation	$ 198
Child Care	0
Clothing/misc.	$ 239
Annual total:	$ 23,516
Annual gross earnings needed:	$ 26,938

from Jobs Now Coalition

How to Read the Tables

① **Number of children.** It helps to know the actual number of children affected by a problem, as well as the percentage. Very small numbers in a category may fluctuate significantly from year to year, making interpretation difficult.

② **Percent of children** (compared to total population, total births, total school enrollment, etc.) Unless the number of children is very small, percentages provide useful comparisons across time.

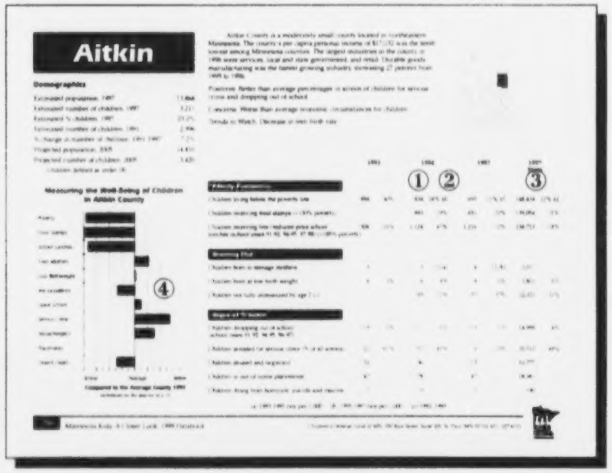
③ **State Average.** This number compares a county to the state as a whole.

④ **Bar Charts.** These charts allow comparisons of different indicators within a county. At a glance, a county can be compared to the "average county." (For more detail about the bar charts, please see the data notes at the end of the book.)

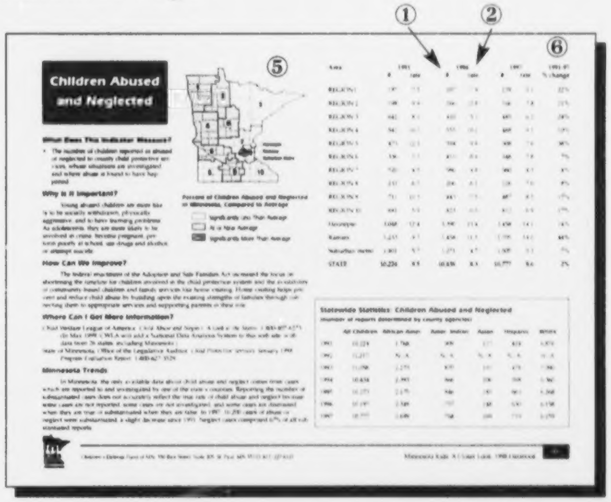
⑤ **Map.** The map ranks regions in thirds, allowing for regional comparisons. It can also help determine if a problem is concentrated in certain areas of the state.

⑥ **Percent Change.** This figure reveals trends over time (1991-1997). Small numbers in some regions can create relatively large percentage changes, however.

Sample County Page



Sample Indicator Page



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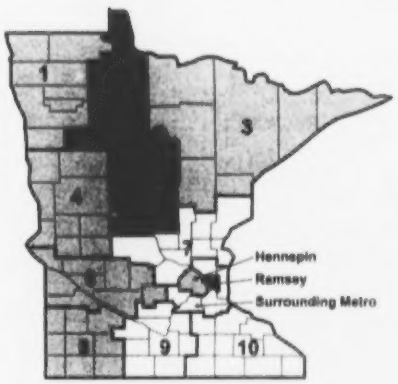
Family Economics

Children Living in Poverty



Percent of Children Living in Poverty in Minnesota, Compared to Average

☐ Significantly Less Than Average
▨ At or Near Average
■ Significantly More Than Average

What Does This Indicator Measure?

- Children who live in families that made less than the federal poverty line (in 1997, $16,450 for a family of four.)
- This figure is estimated by the Census Bureau every three years. Because it's an estimate, these numbers should be interpreted carefully.

Why Is It Important?

Poverty is closely linked with a number of poor outcomes in children and affects all areas of their lives. It can have a devastating impact on their physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing. Poverty places children at greater risk for hunger, homelessness, physical and mental disabilities, sickness, lifelong disabilities, violence, nutritional deficiencies, stunted growth, and death. Poor children are also less likely to do well in school.

How Can We Improve?

The best anti-poverty strategy for children includes living wage jobs for their parents, affordable housing, equitable tax policies for families, a strong educational system, and assistance with childcare and health care needs.

Where Can I Get More Information?

Children's Defense Fund. *Wasting America's Future: The Children's Defense Fund Report on the Cost of Child Poverty*. 1994. This report estimates the actual financial cost of child poverty in several areas, including education, health care, and employment. (202) 662-3652

Jobs Now Coalition. *The Cost of Living in Minnesota, 1998.* This report addresses the minimum cost of basic needs of Minnesota families in 1997. (651) 290-0240

Minnesota Trends

The estimated number and percentage of children in poverty declined from 1989 through 1995 in every Minnesota region and for the state as a whole. Declines were greatest in Greater Minnesota regions with the highest poverty levels, and more modest in metro and suburban areas. The gap between the highest poverty counties and lowest poverty counties narrowed significantly as well because of decreases in the higher poverty counties.

Area	1989		1993		1995		1989-95
	#	%	#	%	#	%	% change
REGION 1	5,205	20%	4,483	17%	3,773	15%	-26%
REGION 2	6,147	31%	5,688	27%	4,716	22%	-29%
REGION 3	15,410	19%	15,806	19%	12,659	16%	-18%
REGION 4	10,698	20%	10,064	18%	8,256	15%	-24%
REGION 5	9,802	25%	8,694	21%	7,304	18%	-29%
REGION 6	7,293	16%	7,112	15%	5,686	13%	-22%
REGION 7	13,621	12%	14,758	12%	12,036	10%	-21%
REGION 8	5,374	16%	4,900	14%	3,988	12%	-24%
REGION 9	7,392	13%	7,748	13%	6,254	11%	-15%
REGION 10	12,060	10%	13,469	11%	11,312	10%	-8%
Hennepin	36,924	15%	46,466	19%	35,618	14%	-7%
Ramsey	21,392	18%	26,055	21%	20,838	17%	-3%
Surr. Metro	14,214	6%	19,981	7%	15,994	6%	-3%
STATE	**165,531**	**14%**	**185,224**	**15%**	**148,434**	**12%**	**-14%**

Statewide Statistics: Children in Poverty
(Census Bureau Estimates)

	Number of Children	% in Poverty
1989	165,531	14.0
1993	185,224	14.7
1995	148,434	11.7

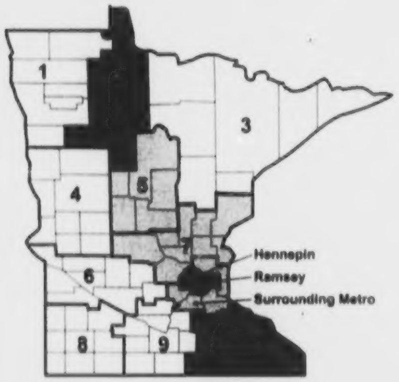
Children Receiving Food Stamps

What Does This Indicator Measure?

- The number of children receiving food stamps (family income must be less than 135% of the poverty line)

Why Is It Important?

Food stamps prevent hunger and malnutrition by allowing low-income families to have access to a more nutritious diet. Over 65 percent of children receiving food stamps are school age. With a well-balanced diet, children are more likely to concentrate on schoolwork and other activities instead of concentrating on their hunger. The immigrant population was most affected by welfare reform which made some families ineligible for food stamps. Recent federal changes in June 1998 restored eligibility to children who arrived in the U.S. by August of 1996.



Percent of Children Receiving Food Stamps in Minnesota, Compared to Average

☐ Significantly Less Than Average
▨ At or Near Average
■ Significantly More Than Average

How Can We Improve?

Many families who are eligible for food stamps do not receive them. Outreach programs can improve access to this program and help ensure that all children receive adequate nutrition.

Where Can I Get More Information?

Food Research Action Center, Washington, D.C. (202) 986-2200. Publications and resources.
http://www.frac.org/htm
Minnesota Food Share. Coalition active on hunger issues in Minnesota. (612) 721-8687, x 327

Minnesota Trends

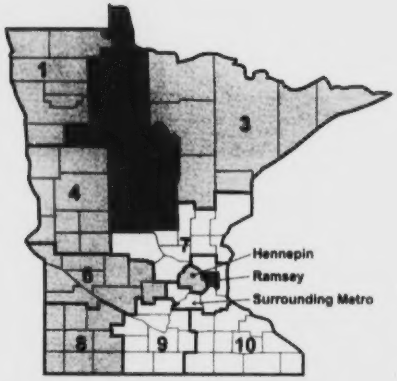
The number of children receiving food stamps decreased by 15% in Minnesota between Fiscal Year 1994 and Fiscal Year 1997. Eleven percent of children receive this assistance statewide, with regional rates ranging from only 4% in the surrounding metro counties to more than 15% in Regions 2 and 3, and in Hennepin and Ramsey counties. All regions saw a decrease in food stamp recipients, ranging from a 25% decrease in regions 1 and 4 to a 4% decrease in Ramsey County.

Area	FY1994		FY1997		FY94-97
	#	%	#	%	% change
REGION1	3,980	15%	3,000	12%	-25%
REGION 2	4,954	24%	4,223	20%	-15%
REGION 3	15,123	19%	11,511	15%	-24%
REGION 4	8,578	16%	6,445	12%	-25%
REGION 5	6,600	16%	5,305	13%	-20%
REGION 6	5,376	11%	3,714	8%	-31%
REGION 7	10,634	9%	8,620	7%	-19%
REGION 8	3,397	10%	2,586	8%	-24%
REGION 9	5,837	10%	4,445	8%	-24%
REGION 10	10,662	9%	9,396	8%	-12%
Hennepin	45,985	18%	41,021	17%	-11%
Ramsey	27,153	21%	26,162	22%	-4%
Surr. metro	15,226	6%	12,628	4%	-17%
STATE	163,503	13%	139,054	11%	-15%

Statewide Statistics: Children Receiving Food Stamps

	Number	Percent
FY 1991	N/A	N/A
FY 1992	N/A	N/A
FY 1993	161,881	13%
FY 1994	163,503	13%
FY 1995	159,734	13%
FY 1996	153,811	12%
FY 1997	139,054	11%

Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch



Percent of Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch in Minnesota, Compared to Average

☐ Significantly Less Than Average
▨ At or Near Average
■ Significantly More Than Average

What Does This Indicator Measure?

- How many school age children live in low-income families (below 185% of the poverty line), as measured by their receipt of free or reduced-price school lunches.

Why Is It Important?

Poverty leads to poor outcomes for children, and many families who are technically above the federal poverty line are still quite poor. This indicator helps measure the number of these children. School lunch itself provides important educational and nutritional benefits to students, including better performance on achievement tests and better school attendance.

How Can We Improve?

A crucial aspect of expanding the school lunch program is to add school breakfast. A recent study by the University of Minnesota found that Minnesota students who participate in the school breakfast program are better prepared for learning, have reduced hyperactivity, decreased absences and tardy rates, reduced nurse visits, general increases in math and reading scores, and improved social behavior.

Where Can I Get More Information?

Minnesota Department of Children Families and Learning. *School Breakfast Programs: Energizing the Classroom.* (651) 296-6986. http://www.children.state.mn.us

Food Research Action Center, Washington, D.C. (202) 986-2200. Publications and resources. http://www.frac.org/htm

Minnesota Trends

Statewide, school lunch participation has increased slightly from 1991 to 1997. In the 1997-1998 school year, at least 28% of students came from low-income families as measured by their receipt of free or reduced-price school lunch. About 20% received free lunch, meaning their families were very low-income. The percentage of students in the program varies widely between regions, from 14% in the surrounding metro counties to more than 40% in Regions 2 and 5 and in Ramsey County, reflecting different rates of child poverty. Hennepin and Ramsey counties and Region 2 all had sizeable increases since 1991.

Area.	1991-92		1994-95		1997-98		91-92 to 97-98
	#	%	#	%	#	%	% change
REGION 1	6,778	36.1%	6,812	36.0%	6,421	35%	-2%
REGION 2	6,264	41.6%	7,531	46.8%	7,863	49%	19%
REGION 3	16,211	30.0%	16,407	29.6%	16,833	31%	5%
REGION 4	11,444	31.3%	12,113	32.6%	11,430	31%	-2%
REGION 5	12,292	43.0%	12,822	42.7%	13,801	44%	3%
REGION 6	9,291	29.4%	9,907	30.2%	9,834	30%	2%
REGION 7	19,339	24.3%	21,589	24.9%	21,297	24%	-2%
REGION 8	7,036	29.2%	7,882	31.6%	7,885	32%	9%
REGION 9	9,768	24.6%	11,184	26.2%	10,839	26%	4%
REGION 10	16,216	20.7%	17,622	22.2%	18,051	22%	8%
Hennepin	36,828	27.0%	42,535	29.2%	49,154	31%	15%
Ramsey	26,707	35.7%	30,612	36.7%	37,802	45%	26%
Surr. Metro	20,233	12.9%	25,540	14.5%	27,513	14%	12%
STATE	**198,407**	**25.6%**	**222,431**	**26.8%**	**238,723**	**28%**	**9%**

Statewide Statistics: Number and Percent of Children Approved for Free and Reduced Price School Lunch

	Free or Reduced-Price		Free	
1991-92	198,407	26%	147,797	19%
1992-93	206,381	26%	154,422	20%
1993-94	224,860	28%	168,580	21%
1994-95	222,431	27%	166,412	20%
1995-96	223,891	27%	166,897	20%
1996-97	229,059	27%	170,481	20%
1997-98	238,723	28%	175,533	20%

Starting Out

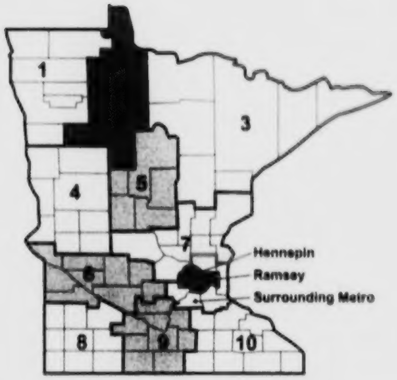
Children Born to Teenage Mothers

What Does This Indicator Measure?

- The number of children born to mothers under age eighteen.
- The rate of 15-17 year olds who become mothers over a three-year period.

Why Is It Important?

Early childbirth has a lasting impact on the lives of both young mothers and their children. Young mothers are more likely to not complete high school and be poorer than mothers who are older. Children born to teenage mothers also have increased health, academic, and social problems. Most young fathers are ill-equipped to take on the responsibilities of fathering due to lack of education and job skills, which leads to low wages.



Percent of Children Born to Teenage Mothers in Minnesota, Compared to Average

☐ Significantly Less Than Average
▨ At or Near Average
■ Significantly More Than Average

Area	1991 #	1994 #	1993-95 Rate/1000	1997 #	1995-97 Rate/1000	93-95 to 95-97 % change
REGION 1	27	41	16.9	24	15.2	-11%
REGION 2	35	48	23.5	59	24.7	5%
REGION 3	110	115	16.9	126	15.3	-10%
REGION 4	68	72	17.7	70	14.7	-17%
REGION 5	63	87	24.7	63	17.2	-30%
REGION 6	48	56	16.8	65	15.8	-6%
REGION 7	118	157	16.1	146	13.7	-14%
REGION 8	27	40	14.6	53	15.2	4%
REGION 9	65	68	16.2	79	15.7	-3%
REGION 10	154	152	16.8	156	14.4	-14%
Hennepin	557	555	31.5	546	26.7	-15%
Ramsey	320	320	38.4	348	35.1	-9%
Surr. Metro	248	288	14.1	276	12.4	-12%
STATE	1,840	1,999	22.0	2,011	18.5	-18%

How Can We Improve?

Prevention programs focused on both young women and young men are the most important strategy to reduce the occurrences of teenage pregnancy. Prevention programs include: educating young people about sexuality, family planning, and contraception; making contraception and medical services available and accessible to young people; providing teenagers at risk of becoming parents with alternative life options to parenting; and instilling a hope for a productive future.

Where Can I Get More Information?

Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting.
(651) 644-1447. http://www.cyfc.umn.edu/MOAPP
National KIDS COUNT Special Report. *When Teens Have Sex: Issues and Trends.* 1998.
(410) 223-2890. http://www.aefc.org

Statewide Statistics: Children Born to Teenage Mothers

	All Children	African-Amer.	Amer. Indian	Asian	Hispanic	White
1991	1,840	322	132	164	103	1,119
1992	1,911	389	122	105	121	1,174
1993	1,958	357	137	139	143	1,182
1994	1,999	361	157	108	139	1,234
1995	2,033	369	128	154	147	1,235
1996	2,017	325	106	174	192	1,180
1997	2,011	344	125	199	183	1,309

Minnesota Trends

In 1997, 2,011 children were born to mothers under 18 in Minnesota. The 1995-97 birth rate of 18 per 1000 was 18% lower than the 1993-95 birth rate. Teen birth rates dropped in every region except Region 2, which saw a small increase. The largest decrease was in Region 5 in north central Minnesota, which had a 30% decrease. Recently available national data suggests that birth rates for African-American and Hispanic teens in Minnesota remain among the highest in the country.

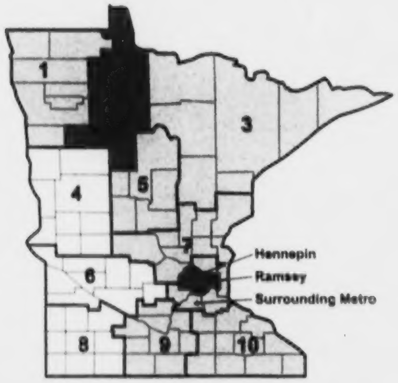
Children Born at Low Birthweight

What Does This Indicator Measure?

- Infants born weighing less than 2500 grams or 5.5 pounds, including those born prematurely (before 37 weeks.)
- The three major risk factors for low birth weight are cigarette smoking during pregnancy, low maternal weight gain, and low pre-pregnancy weight. Other risks include maternal health, fetal infection, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, genetic make-up, obstetric history, and a variety of metabolic and genetic disorders.

Why Is It Important?

Low birth weight is the major cause of infant illness and death in the United States. As a group, these infants have higher rates of health problems than other children. By school age, children born at low birth weight are more likely to have mild learning disabilities, attention disorders, developmental impairments, and breathing problems.



Percent of Children Born at Low Birthweight in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- ☐ Significantly Less Than Average
- ▨ At or Near Average
- ■ Significantly More Than Average

Area	1991		1994		1997		1991-97
	#	%	#	%	#	%	% change
REGION 1	58	4.9%	43	3.8%	64	5.7%	16%
REGION 2	42	4.0%	52	5.6%	58	6.2%	56%
REGION 3	165	4.7%	170	5.1%	176	5.4%	15%
REGION 4	119	4.8%	89	3.8%	134	1.3%	-73%
REGION 5	87	4.7%	87	5.1%	91	5.4%	15%
REGION 6	59	2.8%	94	4.8%	114	5.4%	89%
REGION 7	276	4.9%	307	5.4%	331	5.6%	14%
REGION 8	44	2.8%	67	4.5%	66	4.4%	59%
REGION 9	137	5.0%	137	5.3%	136	5.3%	7%
REGION 10	277	4.5%	294	5.2%	336	5.9%	30%
Hennepin	967	5.8%	1,044	6.7%	1,012	6.5%	13%
Ramsey	485	5.9%	500	6.6%	500	6.7%	15%
Surr. Metro	623	4.5%	762	5.3%	783	5.4%	20%
STATE	3,339	5.0%	3,646	5.7%	3,801	5.9%	18%

How Can We Improve?

The three most effective prenatal intervention efforts are reducing smoking by pregnant women, improving nutrition for pregnant mothers, and providing more appropriate prenatal care.

Where Can I Get More Information?

Minneapolis Department of Health and St. Paul-Ramsey County Public Health. *Lowering Infant Deaths: Promoting Change to Save Lives*. August 1998. (612) 673-3141.

The Future of Children. *Low Birth Weight*. (415) 948-3696. http://www.futureofchildren.org/lbw/index.htm

Minnesota Trends

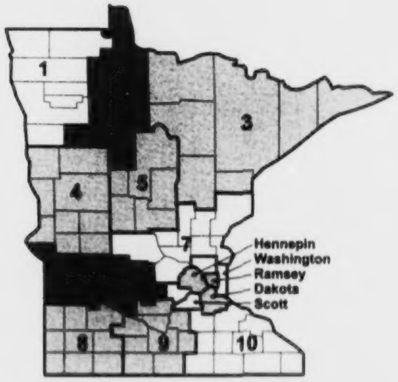
The percentage of children born at low birth weight has increased 18% in Minnesota between 1991 and 1997. It has also increased for every region except Region 4, which had a substantial drop between 1996 and 1997 that may be a single year fluctuation. The percentages of low birth weight babies are highest in Hennepin and Ramsey counties. African-American children continue to be almost twice as likely as other children to be born at low birth weight.

Statewide Statistics: Children Born With Low Birth Weight (Less Than 2500 grams)*

	All Children		African-Amer.		Amer. Indian		Asian		Hispanic		White	
1991	3,339	5%	406	12%	93	6%	138	6%	79	6%	2,692	5%
1992	3,211	5%	366	10%	88	6%	131	5%	73	5%	2,618	5%
1993	3,320	5%	348	10%	100	7%	174	7%	85	5%	2,675	5%
1994	3,646	6%	429	12%	94	7%	192	7%	107	6%	2,893	5%
1995	3,709	6%	405	11%	105	8%	181	6%	129	7%	2,960	5%
1996	3,715	6%	365	12%	63	6%	175	7%	138	6%	2,936	5%
1997	3,801	6%	366	11%	80	7%	189	7%	169	7%	3,110	6%

*As a percent of all births

Children with School Readiness Problems



Percent of Children with School Readiness Problems in Minnesota, Compared to Average

☐ Significantly Less Than Average
▨ At or Near Average
■ Significantly More Than Average

What Does This Indicator Measure?

- The number of children identified as having problems by early childhood screening programs, including problems with hearing and vision, development, growth, lack of immunization or health care coverage, and other health concerns.

Why Is It Important?

In 1997, the National Education Goals Panel selected the following as their first goal: "By the year 2000, all children in America will start school ready to learn." Traditionally, families have provided the early care and education for their children, and when they needed help, their extended family and friends tried to provide it. However, fewer children now live in families with two parents, and a majority of parents now work full or part time outside the home before their children begin school.

How Can We Improve?

The national committee suggested: decreasing fragmentation in the current systems of care, including funding and accountability mechanisms; expanding services for young children; increasing public awareness about the importance of the first years of life; and creating schools that are also ready to help all children achieve their full potential.

Where Can I Get More Information?

The National Education Goals Panel, 1997. *Special Early Childhood Report* and *Ready Schools*.
http://www.negp.gov

Minnesota Trends

1996-97 was the first school year that data was available for the KIDS COUNT data book, so no trends over time are available. Also, many school districts did not correctly complete the forms, so data is reported only at the regional level and only for those school districts that correctly provided the information.

The percentage of students identified with school readiness problems was 23% for the state and ranged from 16% in Region 10 to 47% in Region 2.

Area	1996-97 # Identified	1996-97 # Screened	1996-97 % Identified w/problems
REGION 1	93	480	19%
REGION 2	260	555	47%
REGION 3	648	2,749	24%
REGION 4	194	834	23%
REGION 5	418	1,496	28%
REGION 6	562	1,313	43%
REGION 7	599	3,276	18%
REGION 8	184	769	24%
REGION 9	328	1,415	23%
REGION 10	518	3,208	16%
Hennepin	427	2,156	20%
Ramsey	1,390	6,055	23%
Anoka	n/a		
Carver	n/a		
Dakota	858	3,220	27%
Scott	16	90	18%
Washington	52	652	8%
State	**9,367**	**41,325**	**23%**

38

39

Signs of Trouble

40

41

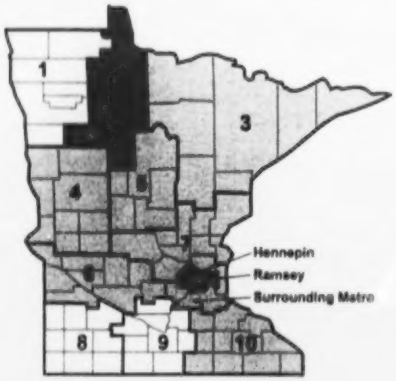
Children Dropping Out of School

What Does This Indicator Measure?

- How many children drop out of ninth, tenth, eleventh or twelfth grades in a particular year.
- The graduation rate measures how many students in a particular class of children (i.e. the Class of 1997) graduate on time.

Why Is It Important?

Dropping out of school is associated with many negative factors that can effect a child's future. Children who drop out of school are three times as likely to slip into poverty in adulthood than those who finish school. Job prospects are minimal for young and unskilled workers, and earnings of high school dropouts are significantly lower than for those who complete more education.



Percent of Children Dropping Out of School in Minnesota, Compared to Average

☐ Significantly Less Than Average
▨ At or Near Average
■ Significantly More Than Average

Area	1991-92 #	1991-92 %	1994-95 #	1994-95 %	1996-97 #	1996-97 %	91-92 to 96-97 % change
REGION 1	115	1.3%	108	1.3%	123	1.4%	3.2%
REGION 2	149	2.4%	292	4.1%	353	4.8%	103.1%
REGION 3	994	3.7%	786	2.9%	875	3.2%	-14.8%
REGION 4	251	1.6%	426	2.4%	494	2.8%	77.3%
REGION 5	374	2.9%	461	3.2%	486	3.3%	14.4%
REGION 6	319	2.2%	465	3.0%	421	2.6%	17.8%
REGION 7	749	2.2%	819	2.1%	969	2.3%	5.7%
REGION 8	144	1.3%	190	1.7%	179	1.5%	15.4%
REGION 9	286	1.7%	390	2.0%	415	2.1%	22.5%
REGION 10	836	2.5%	938	2.7%	1,033	2.8%	8.9%
Hennepin	3,364	6.0%	3,607	5.8%	4,595	7.0%	15.8%
Ramsey	1,844	6.4%	2,139	6.5%	2,337	6.5%	1.7%
Surr. Metro	2,066	3.1%	2,309	3.0%	2,709	3.2%	5.9%
STATE	**11,491**	**3.5%**	**12,930**	**3.5%**	**20,337**	**3.8%**	**9.7%**

How Can We Improve?

A study of federally-financed ABC dropout prevention programs identified the following effective prevention strategies: long-term commitment to the program; continuous monitoring of students; an individualized focus; helping students acquire skills; collaboration across home, school and community; and parent involvement.

Where Can I Get More Information?

US Department of Health and Human Services. Information on national trends. http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/hsp/97trends
ERIC Clearinghouse on Assessment and Evaluation. 1-800-464-3742 http://ericae.net

Minnesota Trends

In the 1996-1997 school year, almost 4% of Minnesota students left school. The dropout rate for students of color was much higher, reaching 15% for African-American and American Indian students, 12% for Hispanic students, and 6% for Asian students. All regions have had an increase in the dropout rate between 1991-92 and 1996-97.

Looking at high school completion data for the class of 1997, 78% of students graduated on time. Eleven percent dropped out in ninth, tenth, eleventh or twelfth grades, and the remainder continued in school.

Statewide Statistics: Children Dropping Out of School

	All Children		African-Amer.		Amer. Indian		Asian		Hispanic		White	
1991-92	11,491	4%	1,467	14%	669	13%	456	5%	496	11%	8,403	3%
1992-93	13,640	4%	1,870	16%	844	16%	691	7%	627	13%	9,608	3%
1993-94	12,387	3%	1,812	14%	787	13%	612	5%	681	12%	8,495	3%
1994-95	12,930	4%	1,963	14%	920	15%	618	5%	675	11%	8,754	3%
1995-96	15,701	4%	2,766	18%	1,049	16%	806	6%	836	13%	10,244	3%
1996-97	14,989	4%	2,560	15%	1,040	15%	823	6%	862	12%	9,704	3%

Children Arrested for Serious Crime

What Does This Indicator Measure?

- The number of children arrested each year for murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, vehicle theft and other property crimes.
- The percentage of these arrests that are juveniles.

Why Is It Important?

Juvenile crime is associated with many other risk factors for children including poverty, learning disabilities, substance abuse, family dysfunction, low-income neighborhoods, cognitive deficiencies, and perinatal problems. Many children who commit crimes were themselves victimized as younger children.

How Can We Improve?

It is important to devote more resources to helping children before they commit their first crime and to intervene immediately with minor offences such as vandalism or shoplifting. Areas for intervention include supporting families at risk for abuse and neglect, advocating for community-based intervention and prevention programs, and implementing school-based programs that promote prosocial behavior by teaching conflict resolution and self-esteem.

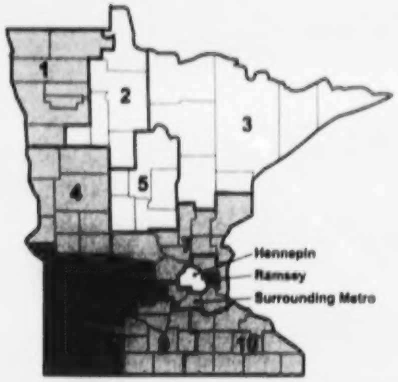
Where Can I Get More Information?

Minnesota Planning Criminal Justice Center. Data, publications, resources. (651) 296-3985. http://mnplan.state.mn.us/CJ/index.html

Howell, James C. *A Sourcebook: Serious, Violent and Chromic Juvenile Offenders*. Sage Publications, (805) 499-0721.

Minnesota Trends

In 1997, 48% of all arrests for serious crimes were arrests of children. This represents a 13% increase since 1991. The largest category of crime was larceny, 64% of all arrests. Violent crimes comprised 17% of arrests. Regions varied in the percentage of arrests of children, with all but one region showing some increase since 1991.



Percent of Children Arrested for Serious Crime in Minnesota, Compared to Average

□	Significantly Less Than Average
▨	At or Near Average
■	Significantly More Than Average

Area	1991		1994		1997		1991-97
	#	%	#	%	#	%	% change
REGION 1	164	31.8%	253	42.3%	227	50.7%	59%
REGION 2	360	39.7%	275	34.2%	359	45.0%	13%
REGION 3	1,110	46.6%	1,010	42.9%	1,094	45.0%	-3%
REGION 4	658	39.8%	826	52.9%	706	47.0%	18%
REGION 5	317	33.8%	312	39.0%	312	33.8%	0%
REGION 6	530	49.4%	582	55.9%	679	55.2%	12%
REGION 7	1,188	39.4%	1,515	50.1%	1,692	50.4%	28%
REGION 8	225	41.3%	373	58.2%	380	54.4%	32%
REGION 9	609	40.3%	716	50.4%	742	48.1%	19%
REGION 10	1,415	46.4%	1,962	57.9%	1,656	50.7%	9%
Hennepin	4,691	37.9%	5,186	40.4%	5,490	42.2%	11%
Ramsey	2,767	45.5%	3,472	55.4%	3,484	57.6%	27%
Surr. Metro	3,669	48.8%	4,233	55.6%	3,729	51.5%	5%
STATE	17,688	42.6%	20,721	48.9%	20,512	48.3%	13%

Statewide Statistics: Children Arrested for Serious Crimes*

(murder, negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, vehicle theft, property crimes)

	All Children		African-Amer.		Amer. Indian		Asian		Hispanic		White	
1991	17,688	43%	2,604	33%	1,010	43%	558	59%	1,849	47%	13,516	44%
1992	19,382	46%	2,815	34%	950	45%	606	61%	1,700	49%	14,959	49%
1993	18,509	44%	2,836	33%	939	43%	717	59%	1,110	35%	14,017	48%
1994	20,721	49%	3,626	38%	914	44%	826	61%	1,601	41%	15,355	52%
1995	20,354	49%	3,541	37%	1,016	46%	894	64%	1,673	42%	14,903	52%
1996	21,282	49%	3,684	36%	946	42%	1,199	64%	1,880	38%	15,453	53%
1997	20,512	48%	3,838	39%	974	43%	1,322	67%	1,915	40%	14,378	51%

*as a percent of all arrests for serious crimes **Hispanic may be of any race

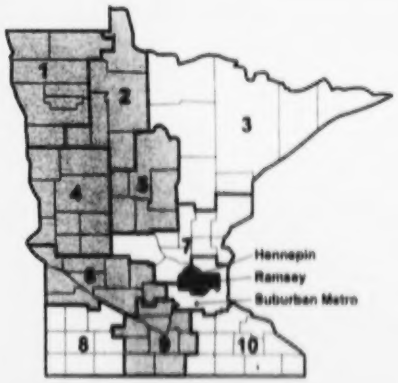
Children Abused and Neglected

What Does This Indicator Measure?

- The number of children reported as abused or neglected to county child protective services, whose situations are investigated and where abuse is found to have happened.

Why Is It Important?

Young abused children are more likely to be socially withdrawn, physically aggressive, and to have learning problems. As adolescents, they are more likely to be involved in crime, become pregnant, perform poorly at school, use drugs and alcohol, or attempt suicide.



Percent of Children Abused and Neglected in Minnesota, Compared to Average

☐ Significantly Less Than Average
▨ At or Near Average
■ Significantly More Than Average

How Can We Improve?

The federal enactment of the Adoption and Safe Families Act increased the focus on shortening the timeline for children involved in the child protection system and the availability of community-based children and family services like home visiting. Home visiting helps prevent and reduce child abuse by building upon the existing strengths of families through connecting them to appropriate services and supporting parents in their role.

Where Can I Get More Information?

Child Welfare League of America. *Child Abuse and Neglect: A Look at the States*. 1-800-407-6273. (In May 1999, CWLA will add a National Data Analysis System to this web site, with data from 26 states, including Minnesota.)

State of Minnesota, Office of the Legislative Auditor. *Child Protective Services, January 1998 Program Evaluation Report*. 1-800-627-3529.

Minnesota Trends

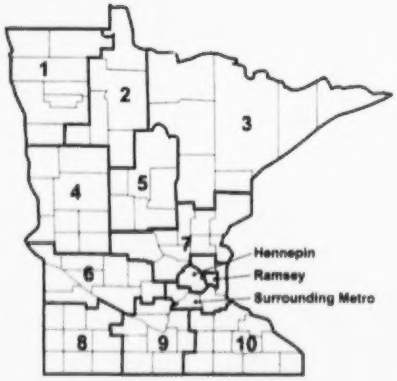
In Minnesota, the only available data about child abuse and neglect comes from cases which are reported to and investigated by one of the state's counties. Reporting the number of substantiated cases does not accurately reflect the true rate of child abuse and neglect because some cases are not reported, some cases are not investigated, and some cases are dismissed when they are true or substantiated when they are false. In 1997, 10,200 cases of abuse or neglect were substantiated, a slight decrease since 1991. Neglect cases comprised 67% of all substantiated reports.

Area	1991		1994		1997		1991-97
	#	rate	#	rate	#	rate	% change
REGION1	197	7.5	207	7.9	229	9.1	22%
REGION 2	198	9.9	266	12.8	166	7.8	-21%
REGION 3	642	8.1	420	5.3	485	6.2	-24%
REGION 4	541	10.1	555	10.2	488	9.1	-10%
REGION 5	473	12.3	394	9.8	308	7.6	-38%
REGION 6	336	7.3	415	8.9	348	7.8	7%
REGION 7	520	4.5	586	4.8	560	4.3	-4%
REGION 8	233	6.5	206	6.1	226	7.0	8%
REGION 9	711	10.3	443	7.5	487	8.5	-17%
REGION 10	691	5.9	823	6.9	812	6.9	17%
Hennepin	3,048	12.4	3,390	13.4	3,458	14.1	14%
Ramsey	1,233	9.7	1,458	11.3	1,705	14.0	44%
Suburban metro	1,401	5.7	1,271	4.7	1,505	5.3	-7%
STATE	10,224	8.5	10,439	8.3	10,777	8.6	2%

Statewide Statistics: Children Abused and Neglected
(number of reports determined by county agencies)

	All Children	African-Amer.	Amer. Indian	Asian	Hispanic	White
1991	10,224	1,768	909	217	424	6,876
1992	11,217	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1993	11,058	2,273	870	195	478	7,090
1994	10,434	2,393	866	206	598	6,360
1995	10,273	2,175	846	185	663	6,268
1996	10,195	2,349	757	248	630	6,158
1997	10,777	2,699	768	269	719	6,259

Children in Out-of-Home Placements



** Because it is difficult to determine if fewer or greater number of placements is "better" or "worse," counties are not compared.*

What Does This Indicator Measure?

- The number of children placed in family foster care, emergency foster care or group homes.

Why Is It Important?

Children in out-of-home placement are usually there because of serious problems in their families. The placement could be because of abuse or neglect by parents or other caregivers. For older children, it could be because of problems between them and their families. While out-of-home placement is sometimes necessary, it is a costly intervention that has few good outcomes for anyone involved.

How Can We Improve?

In many cases, families need support, education, mental health services or other community-based resources to help alleviate family difficulties. Investigation and intervention by child protection could be reserved for more serious cases where children's safety and wellbeing are threatened. In the long run, more families would receive services and these services would better meet the diverse needs of families.

Where Can I Get More Information?

Minnesota KIDS COUNT. *Minnesota Children in Out-of-Home Placement*. 1997. (612) 870-3670.
Office of the Legislative Auditor. *Juvenile Out-of-Home Placement*. January 1999.
http://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us (651) 297-5353

Minnesota Trends

Because of administrative changes from year to year in which children are included in the official count of "out-of-home placement," it is difficult to determine accurate trends. (In 1995, Hennepin County removed older adolescents; in 1997, Ramsey County began counting emergency placements and Hennepin County added in some corrections placements.) The general trend for most regions, however, is an increase in placements since 1991. African-American and American Indian children continue to represent a disproportionate percentage of children in care, at 22 percent and 11 percent respectively.

Area	1991		1994		1997		1991-97
	#	rate/ 1000	#	rate/ 1000	#	rate/ 1000	% change
REGION 1	248	9	253	10	358	14	51%
REGION 2	394	20	452	22	433	20	3%
REGION 3	1,899	24	2,111	26	1,786	23	-5%
REGION 4	650	12	799	15	768	14	18%
REGION 5	544	14	672	17	649	16	13%
REGION 6	416	9	481	10	414	9	3%
REGION 7	1,108	10	1,427	12	1,458	11	17%
REGION 8	390	8	438	13	451	14	85%
REGION 9	550	8	672	11	750	13	64%
REGION 10	955	8	1,046	9	1,211	10	27%
Hennepin	5,813	24	6,878	27	5,095	21	-12%
Ramsey	1,545	12	1,652	13	2,261	19	53%
Surr. Metro	2,265	9	2,755	10	2,748	10	5%
STATE	**16,777**	**14**	**19,636**	**16**	**18,381**	**15**	**6%**

Statewide Statistics: Children in Out-of-Home Placement

	All Children	African-Amer.	Amer. Indian	Asian	Hispanic	White
1991	16,777	3,000	1,865	344	425	10,777
1992	18,096	3,459	2,130	304	412	11,337
1993	18,673	3,860	2,108	316	562	11,489
1994	19,636	4,007	2,176	292	581	11,658
1995	18,492	3,685	2,034	308	636	11,308
1996	17,508	3,492	1,995	285	644	10,701
1997	18,381	3,981	2,030	332	726	10,897

Children Dying Violently

What Does This Indicator Measure?

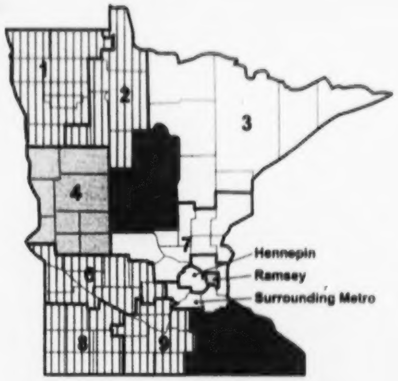
- The number of children dying from homicide, suicide or injury, including motor vehicle crashes, fires, falls and drowning.

Why Is It Important?

Relatively few children die violent deaths in Minnesota each year. However, it is important to be aware of violent child deaths because many of these deaths are preventable. Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death among children.

How Can We Improve?

Many violence prevention programs seek to teach children conflict resolution, and self-esteem. Other community efforts focus on reducing children's access to guns to prevent both accidental and intentional injuries. Deaths from motor vehicle crashes could be reduced through: stronger laws against drunk driving, especially for teenagers; graduated licensing laws for young drivers; child passenger restraint laws; and stronger safety belt laws.



Percent of Children Dying Violently in Minnesota, Compared to Average

☐ Significantly Less Than Average
▒ At or Near Average
■ Significantly More Than Average
▥ Not enough data to determine rate

Where Can I Get More Information?

Children's Defense Fund. *Shattered Bodies, Shattered Lives; Ending Gun Violence Against Children.* (202) 662-3652. http://www.childrensdefense.org/safestart-shattered.html

Minnesota Safety Council, Safe Kids Department. Information on motor vehicle injuries and children. (651) 228-7314.

Minnesota Trends

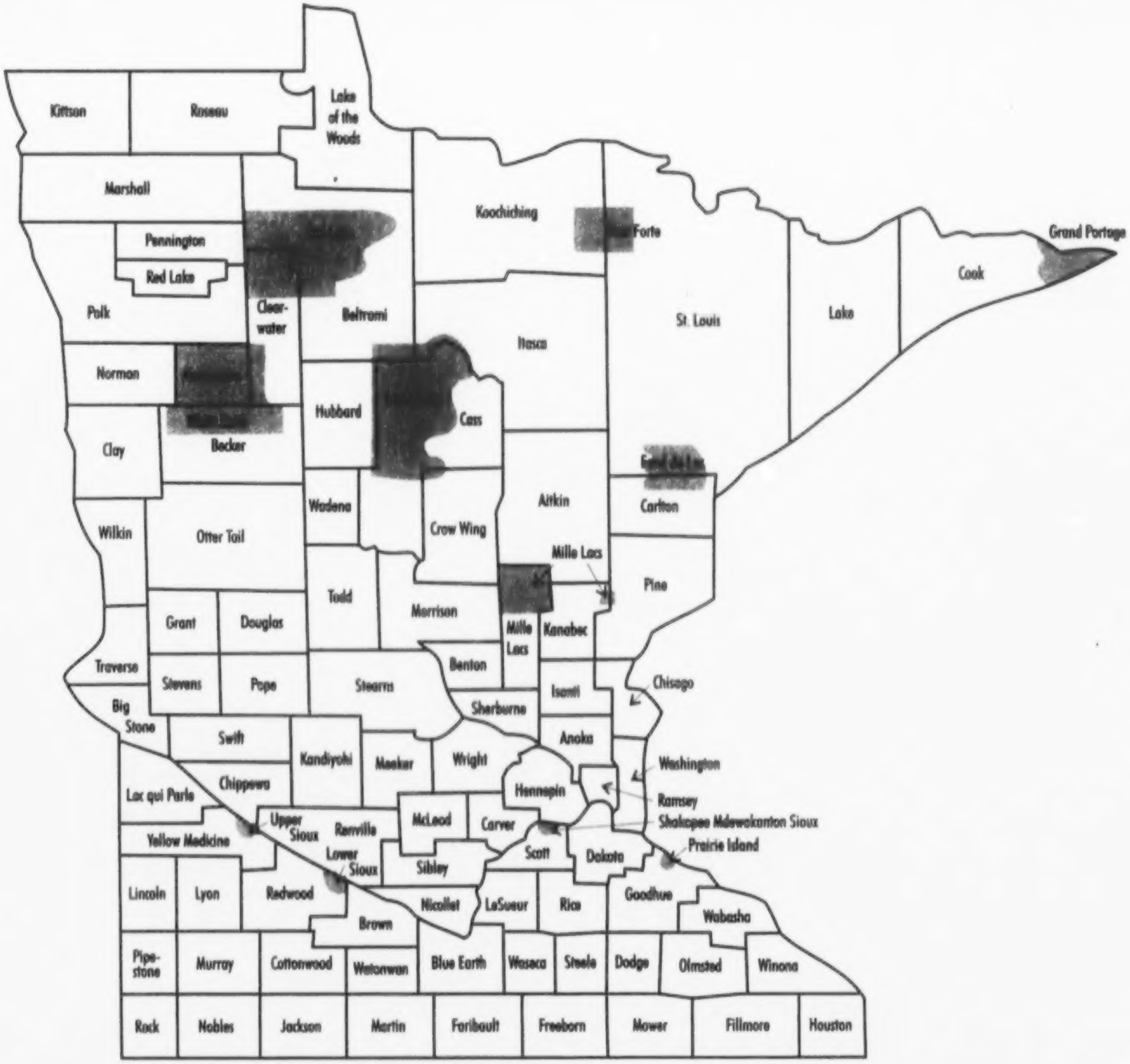
In 1997, 190 Minnesota children died from homicides, suicides or injuries. The rate of child deaths has remained fairly constant since 1997. Although homicides are often higher profile than other types of child deaths, they comprised only 8% of child deaths in 1997. Although numbers of deaths are too small to calculate rates for regions 1,2,4,6,8 and 9, death rates vary in the remaining regions from just over 1 per 10,000 in Hennepin County to close to 3 per 10,000 in Region 5 in north central Minnesota.

Area	1991		1994		1997		1991-97
	#	rate/ 10,000	#	rate/ 10,000	#	rate/ 10,000	% change
REGION 1	6		7		9		
REGION 2	4		6		7		
REGION 3	21	2.6	11	1.4	10	1.3	-52%
REGION 4	6		9		10	1.9	
REGION 5	13	3.4	5		11	2.7	-20%
REGION 6	18	3.9	11	2.3	4		
REGION 7	24	2.1	31	2.5	18	1.4	-33%
REGION 8	2		8		5		
REGION 9	8		5		6		
REGION 10	24	2.1	13	1.1	23	2.0	-4%
Hennepin	35	1.4	37	1.5	28	1.1	-19%
Ramsey	13	1.0	18	1.4	23	1.9	85%
Surr. Metro	25	1.0	22	0.8	36	1.3	25%
STATE	199	1.6	183	1.5	190	1.5	-8%

Statewide Statistics: Children Dying Violently

	All Children	Children of Color*	Hispanic	Murder	Suicide	Motor Vehicle Crashes
1991	199	30	6	21	28	73
1992	213	32	6	20	39	84
1993	204	41	10	23	27	75
1994	183	41	3	19	16	108
1995	211	44	12	29	34	75
1996	205	35	N/A	32	24	92
1997	190	35	4	16	23	83

* does not include Hispanic


Kittson
Roseau
Lake of the Woods
Marshall
Koochiching
Forte
Grand Portage
Pennington
Red Lake
Cook
Polk
Clear-water
Beltrami
St. Louis
Lake
Itasca
Norman
Hubbard
Cass
Clay
Becker
Fond du Lac
Wadena
Aitkin
Carlton
Wilkin
Otter Tail
Crow Wing
Mille Lacs
Pine
Todd
Grant
Douglas
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Traverse
Benton
Stevens
Pope
Stearns
Isanti
Chisago
Big Stone
Sherburne
Swift
Anoka
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Wright
Washington
Chippewa
Hennepin
Lac qui Parle
Ramsey
Upper Sioux
Renville
McLeod
Carver
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux
Yellow Medicine
Prairie Island
Lower Sioux
Scott
Dakota
Sibley
Lincoln
Lyon
Redwood
Goodhue
Nicollet
LeSueur
Rice
Wabasha
Brown
Pipe-stone
Murray
Cottonwood
Watonwan
Blue Earth
Waseca
Steele
Dodge
Olmsted
Winona
Rock
Nobles
Jackson
Martin
Faribault
Freeborn
Mower
Fillmore
Houston

Minnesota

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	4,685,549
Estimated number of children, 1997	1,250,685
Estimated % children, 1997	26.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,209,365
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	3.4%
Projected population, 2005	4,948,720
Projected number of children, 2005	1,330,890

(children defined as under 18)

Minnesota is the twentieth largest state in the United States. The per capita income in 1996 was $25,699, twelfth in the country. The largest industries in 1996 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. Wholesale trade was the fastest growing industry, increasing almost 11% between 1995 and 1996.

In the most recent national KIDS COUNT data book, which used 1995 figures, Minnesota ranked ninth best in the nation, an improvement from an eleventh place ranking for the previous year. Although Minnesota ranked fourth best in its teen birth rate, fifth best in its child death rate and ninth for the percentage of children born at low birth weight, the state ranked sixteenth in its infant mortality rate, eighteenth in the percentage of families headed by a single parent, and twenty-fourth in the rate of juveniles arrested for violent crimes.

	1991		1994		1997	
Family Economics						
Children living below the poverty line	165,531	14%	185,224	15% ±2	148,434	12% ±1
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	-		163,503	13%	139,054	11%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	198,407	26%	222,431	27%	238,723	28%
Starting Out						
Children born to teenage mothers	1,840		1,999	22 (a)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	3,339	5%	3,646	6%	3,801	6%
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			27,172	39%	22,023	32%
Signs of Trouble						
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	11,491	4%	12,930	4%	14,989	4%
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	17,688	43%	20,721	49%	20,512	48%
Children abused and neglected (rate per 1,000)	10,224	9	10,439	8	10,777	9
Children in out-of-home placements (rate per 1,000)	16,777	14	19,636	16	18,381	15
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries (d)	199	2	183	2	190	2

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995 (d) rate per 10,000

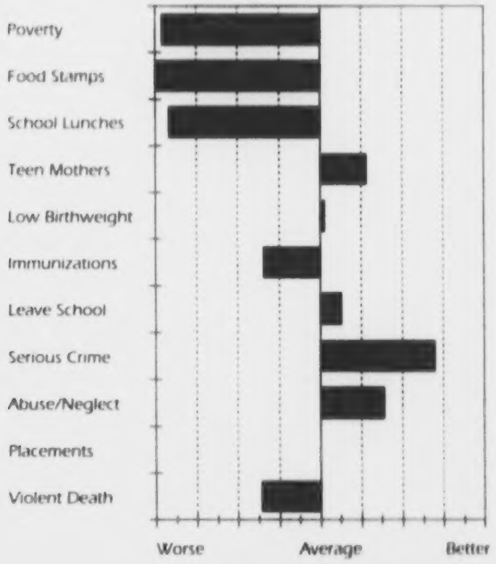
Aitkin

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	13,868
Estimated number of children, 1997	3,211
Estimated % children, 1997	23.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,996
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	7.2%
Projected population, 2005	14,410
Projected number of children, 2005	3,420

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Aitkin County



Compared to the Average County 1997

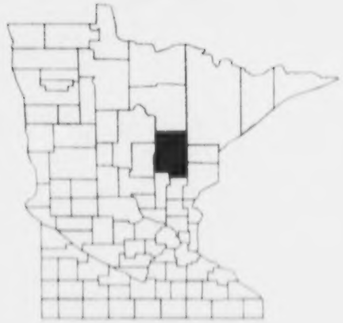
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Aitkin County is a moderately small county located in northeastern Minnesota. The county's per capita personal income of $17,032 was the tenth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1996 were services, local and state government, and retail. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing 27 percent from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Better than average percentages of arrests of children for serious crime and dropping out of school.

Concerns: Worse than average economic circumstances for children.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.



	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	894	*30%*	834	*26% ±6*	695	*21% ±5*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			893	*29%*	651	*20%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	506	*55%*	1,124	*47%*	1,216	*52%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	3		3	*15* (a)	4	*12* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	6	*5%*	6	*4%*	8	*5%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			93	*52%*	57	*37%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	19	*2%*	11	*1%*	13	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	23	*61%*	37	*45%*	9	*25%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	22		36		13		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	47		78		47		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		0		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Anoka

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	286,673
Estimated number of children, 1997	86,390
Estimated % children, 1997	30.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	78,161
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	10.5%
Projected population, 2005	318,260
Projected number of children, 2005	94,260

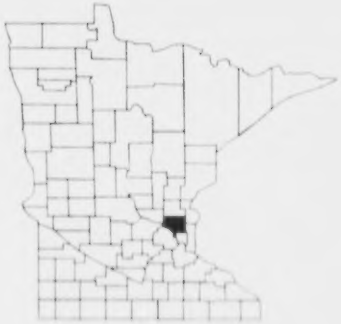
(children defined as under 18)

Anoka County is part of the northern section of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. The county is the fourth largest in Minnesota. Over three percent of school children speak a language other than English at home. Anoka County had a 1996 per capita personal income of $22,951, the fourteenth highest in the state. In 1996, the largest industries in the county were durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry in Anoka was construction, which increased twelve percent from 1995.

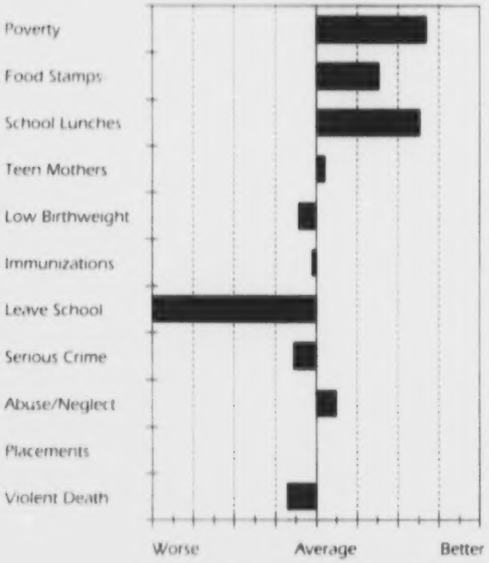
Positives: Better than average economic conditions for children.

Concerns: Worse than average school dropout rate.

Trend to Watch: Increase in percentage of children born at low birth weight.



Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Anoka County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	5,415	7%	7,699	9% ±2	5,989	7% ±2	148,434	12% ±1
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			6,221	7%	5,322	6%	139,054	11%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	8,416	16%	10,435	18%	10,984	18%	238,723	28%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	104		118	18 (a)	101	15 (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	208	5%	221	5%	244	6%	3,801	6%
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			1,795	37%	1,504	33%	22,023	32%
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	595	3%	970	4%	1,020	4%	14,989	4%
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	1,502	49%	1,599	55%	1,278	51%	20,512	48%
Children abused and neglected	401		403		521		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	874		1,084		1,133		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	7		11		9		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

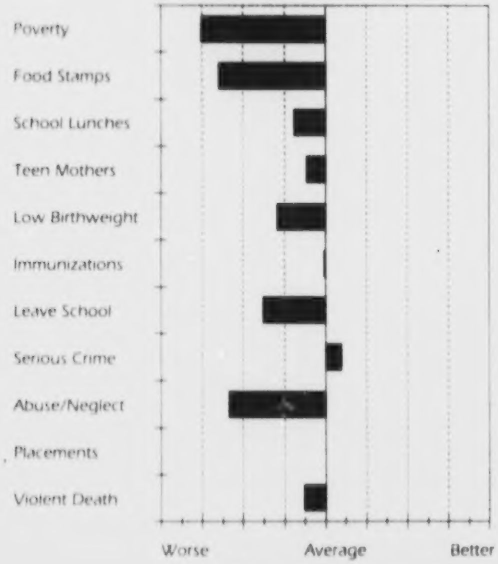
Becker

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	29,240
Estimated number of children, 1997	8,360
Estimated % children, 1997	28.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	8,256
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	1.3%
Projected population, 2005	30,410
Projected number of children, 2005	8,140

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Becker County



Compared to the Average County 1997

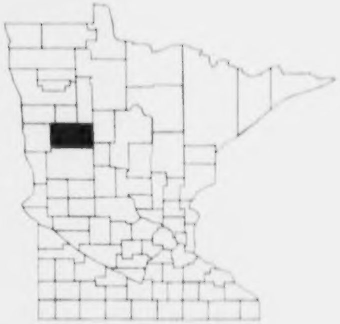
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Becker County is a mid-sized county located in northwestern Minnesota. A portion of the White Earth Indian Reservation is located in the county. In 1996, Becker had a per capita personal income of $18,161, which was the fifteenth lowest in the state. Becker County's largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and retail. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased 18 percent.

Positives: Close to average on several indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of low-income children and substantiated reports of abuse and neglect.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch.



	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	2,319	*28%*	2,024	*24% ±5*	1676	*20% ±4*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,661	*20%*	1,313	*16%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	2,004	*39%*	2,044	*39%*	1,793	*36%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	19		13	*21* (a)	12	*17* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	17	*4%*	17	*5%*	25	*6%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			155	*39%*	123	*33%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	31	*1%*	41	*2%*	53	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	71	*37%*	114	*53%*	48	*44%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	71		105		95		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	110		162		162		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		2		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

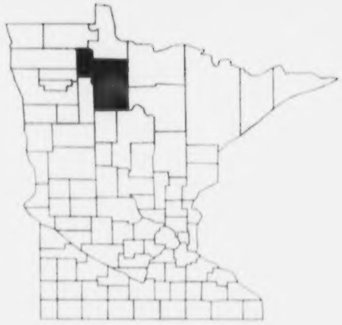
Beltrami

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	38,709
Estimated number of children, 1997	11,647
estimated % children, 1997	30.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	10,622
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	9.6%
Projected population, 2005	40,590
Projected number of children, 2005	12,890

(children defined as under 18)

Beltrami County is located in north central Minnesota and is the twenty-third largest county in the state. Part of the Red Lake Indian Reservation is located in the county. In 1996, Beltrami had a per capita personal income of $17,025, the tenth lowest in Minnesota. Services, state and local government, and retail were the largest industries. The fastest growing industry was transportation and public utilities, which increased by 24% between 1995 and 1996.

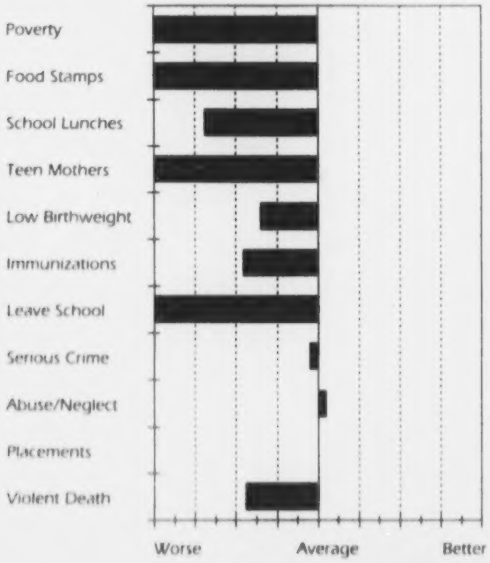


Positives: Lower than average substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Worse than average economic conditions for children and teen birth rate.

Trends to Watch: Increase in low birth-weight babies.

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Beltrami County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	3,237	32%	3,385	29% ±7	2,758	24% ±5	148,434	12% ±1
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			3,174	28%	2,436	23%	139,054	11%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	2,942	36%	3,884	44%	4,119	47%	238,723	28%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	22		29	30 (a)	39	29 (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	23	4%	25	5%	37	7%	3,801	6%
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			236	45%	255	39%	22,023	32%
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	74	2%	186	5%	173	4%	14,989	4%
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	290	41%	210	35%	247	49%	20,512	48%
Children abused and neglected	90		180		77		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	201		261		213		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		4		4		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

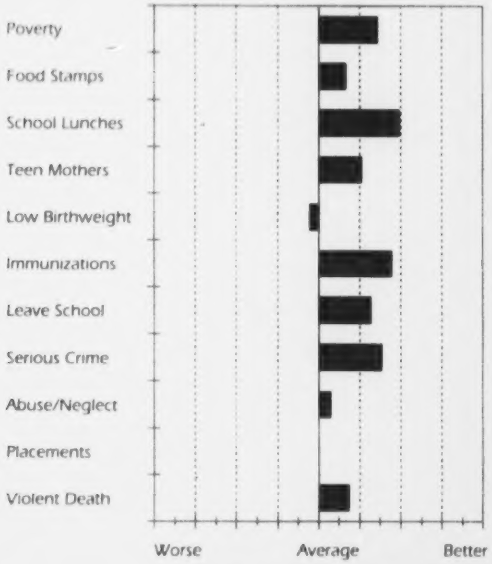
Benton

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	33,671
Estimated number of children, 1997	9,990
Estimated % children, 1997	29.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,387
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	6.4%
Projected population, 2005	39,590
Projected number of children, 2005	11,480

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Benton County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Benton County is a moderately large county located within the St. Cloud Metropolitan area in central Minnesota. The county's per capita personal income of $18,762 ranked sixty-seventh in the state. The largest industries in 1996 in Benton County were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and retail. Non-durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing at a rate of 7.6% from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Better than the average county for almost every indicator of child well-being.

Concerns: None.

Trends to Watch: Increase in the percentage of children born at low birth weight.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,268	*14%*	1,290	*13% ±3*	982	*10% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,074	*11%*	816	*8%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,182	*23%*	1,270	*23%*	1,091	*21%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	4		9	*14* (a)	8	*12* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	25	*5%*	23	*5%*	27	*6%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			164	*30%*	148	*27%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	7	*<1%*	20	*1%*	18	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	49	*32%*	115	*56%*	45	*35%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	52		69		64		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	53		78		72		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		2		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Big Stone

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	5,689
Estimated number of children, 1997	1,447
Estimated % children, 1997	25.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,620
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-10.7%
Projected population, 2005	5,300
Projected number of children, 2005	1,270

(children defined as under 18)

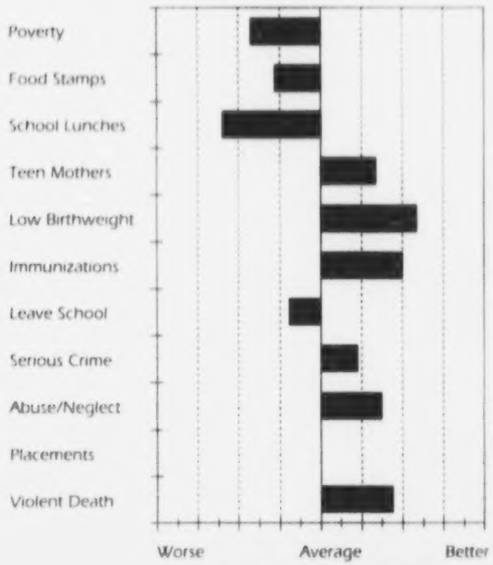
Big Stone County is located in west central Minnesota on the South Dakota border. In 1996, Big Stone was the seventh smallest county in the state and had a per capita personal income of $19,216. This income increased almost nineteen percent from 1995. The largest industries in 1996 were state and local government, services, and construction. The fastest growing industry was retail, which increased nine percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Better than average percentages of low birth weight babies and immunizations.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of low-income children.

Trends to Watch: Increase in teen birth rate.

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Big Stone County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	324	*20%*	282	*18% ±4*	247	*17% ±4*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			218	*14%*	178	*12%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	611	*47%*	716	*50%*	626	*45%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	1		0	*2* (a)	4	*11* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	3	*4%*	2	*4%*	2	*3%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			51	*38%*	21	*26%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	0		3	*<1%*	13	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	12	*43%*	24	*67%*	12	*40%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	13		6		6		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	9		8		6		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		1		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

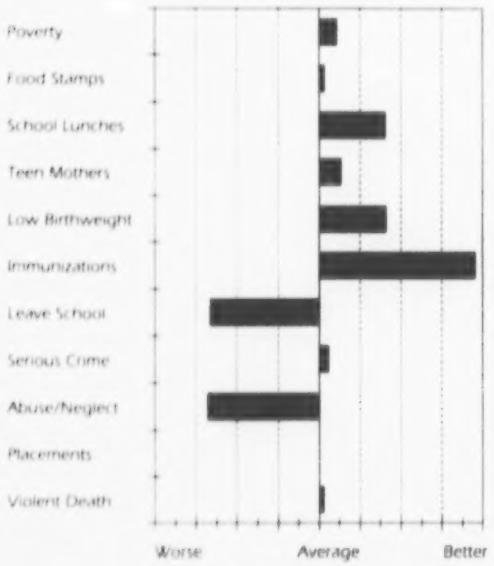
Blue Earth

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	54,037
Estimated number of children, 1997	12,441
Estimated % children, 1997	23.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	12,730
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-2.3%
Projected population, 2005	56,110
Projected number of children, 2005	15,110

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Blue Earth County



Compared to the Average County 1997

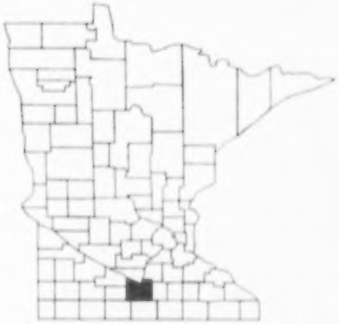
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Blue Earth County, located in south central Minnesota, is the fourteenth largest county in Minnesota. The county's 1996 per capita personal income of $22,293 ranked twentieth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Blue Earth County in 1996 were services, state and local government, and retail. The fastest growing industry was services, which increased more than eight percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Better than average percentage of low birth weight babies and immunizations.

Concerns: Higher than average rates of dropping out of school and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.



	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,611	*13%*	1,987	*15% ±3*	1,529	*12% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,594	*12%*	1,171	*9%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	2,361	*23%*	2,725	*24%*	2,569	*23%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	14		12	*15* (a)	13	*14* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	19	*3%*	25	*4%*	23	*4%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			187	*22%*	157	*20%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	104	*3%*	133	*3%*	137	*3%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	264	*37%*	340	*51%*	380	*45%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	188		176		150		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	141		149		228		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		-		2		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

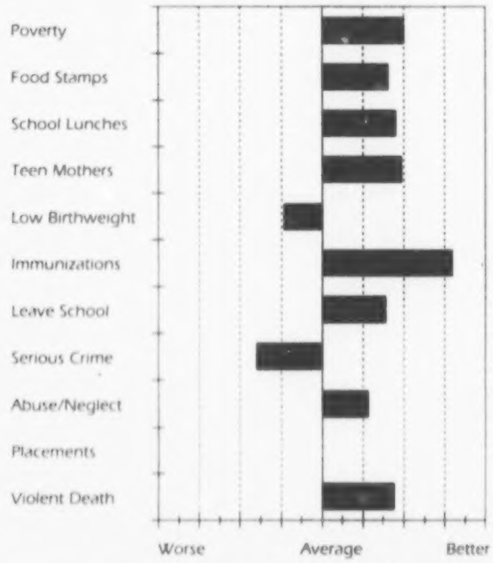
Brown

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	27,222
Estimated number of children, 1997	7,221
Estimated % children, 1997	26.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	7,453
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-3.1%
Projected population, 2005	27,750
Projected number of children, 2005	7,340

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Brown County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Brown County is a mid-sized county located along the Minnesota River in the southwestern portion of the state. Almost four percent of school children speak Spanish at home. Brown County had a 1996 per capita personal income of $22,076, which ranked twenty-fourth in the state. The largest industries were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and durable goods manufacturing. Durable goods manufacturing was also the fastest growing industry, increasing at a rate of ten percent since 1995.

Positives: Better than the average county on almost every indicator of child well-being.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	753	*10%*	800	*11% ±2*	632	*8% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			601	*8%*	432	*6%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,305	*22%*	1,404	*22%*	1,387	*22%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	8		8	*13* (a)	3	9 (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	23	*7%*	18	*6%*	18	*6%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			133	*29%*	95	*22%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	29	*2%*	28	*1%*	13	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	62	*33%*	96	*65%*	83	*60%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	32		31		35		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	63		74		76		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		2		-		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Carlton

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	30,689
Estimated number of children, 1997	8,475
Estimated % children, 1997	27.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	8,324
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	1.8%
Projected population, 2005	31,110
Projected number of children, 2005	8,250

(children defined as under 18)

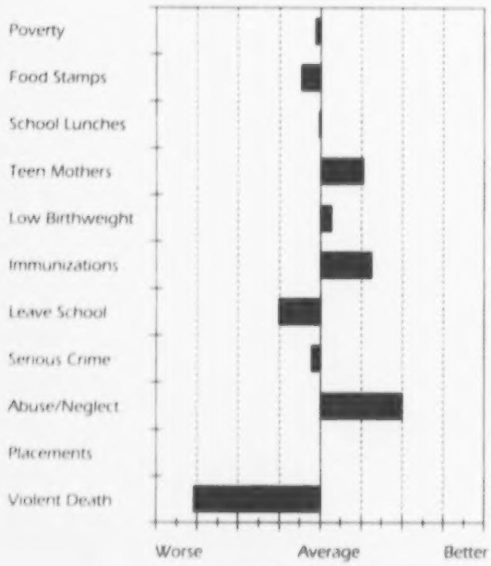
Carlton County is a moderately large county located in northwestern Minnesota on the shore of Lake Superior. It includes part of the Fond du Lac Indian Reservation. In 1996, Carlton had a per capita personal income of $18,435, which ranked sixty-ninth among Minnesota counties. Services, nondurable goods manufacturing, and state and local government were the largest industries. The fastest growing industry was construction, which increased nine percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Lower than average substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, and teen birth rate.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of children born at low birth weight.

Trends to Watch: Increase in children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries.

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Carlton County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,270	*15%*	1,357	*15% ±3*	1,127	*13% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,210	*14%*	912	*11%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	2,029	*31%*	1,902	*28%*	2,075	*32%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	9		11	*18* (a)	11	*12* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	10	*3%*	20	*6%*	18	*5%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			216	*41%*	152	*28%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	101	*3%*	79	*2%*	59	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	168	*52%*	71	*30%*	100	*49%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	34		34		27		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	134		158		143		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		0		4		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

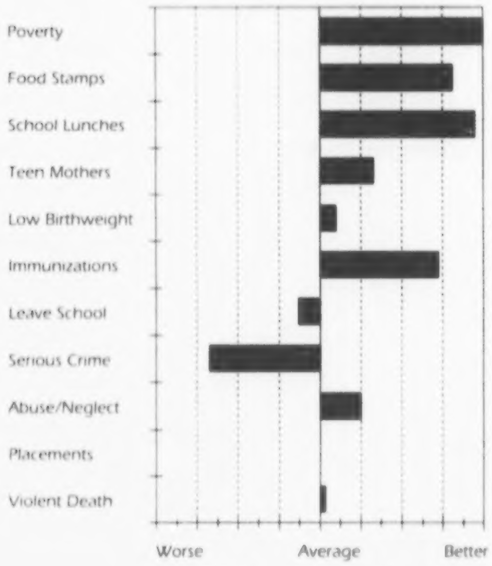
Carver

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	63,198
Estimated number of children, 1997	18,897
Estimated % children, 1997	29.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	15,285
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	23.6%
Projected population, 2005	72,940
Projected number of children, 2005	21,570

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Carver County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Carver County, the eleventh largest county in the state, is located on the western edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. Over three percent of Carver County students speak a language other than English at home, primarily Spanish or Southeast Asian languages. In 1996, Carver had the third highest per capita personal income in the state ($28,838). The largest industries in 1996 were durable goods manufacturing, non-durable goods manufacturing, and services. The construction industry was the fastest growing, increasing by almost 12% from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Better than average economic conditions for children, rates of immunizations.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of arrests of children for serious crimes.

Trends to Watch: Increase in teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	744	*5%*	990	*6% ±1*	778	*4% ±1*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			555	*3%*	417	*2%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,025	*12%*	1,303	*13%*	1,261	*11%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	14		9	9 (a)	15	*11* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	33	*4%*	58	*6%*	52	*5%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			275	*34%*	231	*23%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	227	*7%*	46	*1%*	77	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	130	*45%*	313	*69%*	287	*68%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	56		85		96		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	114		175		182		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		1		3		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

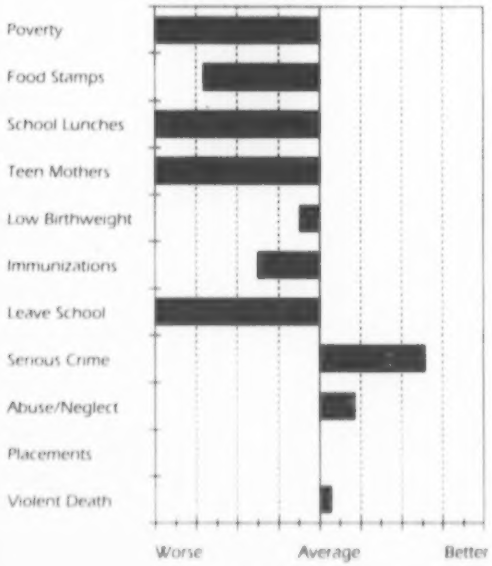
Cass

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	25,746
Estimated number of children, 1997	6,916
Estimated % children, 1997	26.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,099
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	13.4%
Projected population, 2005	26,220
Projected number of children, 2005	6,630

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Cass County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Cass County is a mid-sized county located in north central Minnesota. Part of the Leech Lake Indian Reservation is within the county's borders. Cass County's 1996 per capita personal income of $17,083 was the twelfth lowest in the state. The largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and retail. The fastest growing was retail trade, which increased by seven percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

Concerns: Worse than average economic conditions for children, rate of teen births and dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	2,409	*40%*	1,961	*29% ±7*	1,509	*22% ±5*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,421	*22%*	1,123	*16%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	2,491	*53%*	2,752	*55%*	3,246	*60%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	16		24	*34* (a)	18	*29* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	19	*6%*	21	*8%*	15	*6%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			154	*41%*	155	*37%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	105	*6%*	114	*6%*	129	*6%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	34	*31%*	23	*25%*	46	*27%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	90		87		37		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	190		231		248		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	4		1		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

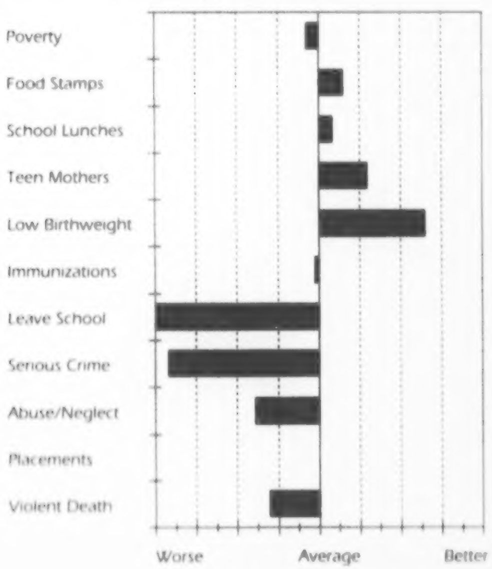
Chippewa

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	13,019
Estimated number of children, 1997	3,445
Estimated % children, 1997	26.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,622
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-4.9%
Projected population, 2005	12,170
Projected number of children, 2005	3,080

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Chippewa County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Chippewa County is a moderately small county located in west central Minnesota along the Minnesota River. During the summer months, the county's population includes migrant farm workers and their children. In 1996, Chippewa County had a per capita personal income of $22,581, which was sixteenth in the state. The largest industries were durable goods, construction, and services. Construction was the fastest growing industry, increasing by twenty-two percent from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Lower than average rate of low birth weight babies.

Concerns: Higher than average rate of dropping out of school and percentage of arrests of children for serious crimes.

Trends to Watch: Increase in school dropout rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	712	*20%*	608	*17% ±4*	479	*14% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			458	*13%*	287	*8%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	693	*28%*	849	*30%*	798	*30%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	0		4	*14* (a)	4	*12* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	5	*3%*	5	*3%*	5	*3%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			57	*39%*	42	*33%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	19	*2%*	45	*3%*	51	*4%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	42	*71%*	31	*62%*	77	*76%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	41		14		34		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	29		36		24		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		0		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

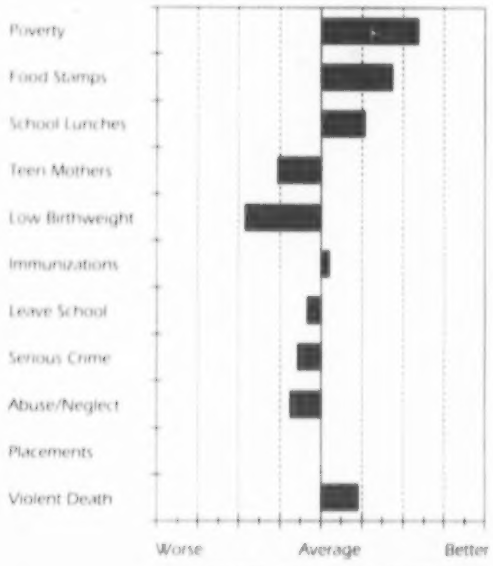
Chisago

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	39,439
Estimated number of children, 1997	11,986
Estimated % children, 1997	30.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,777
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	22.6%
Projected population, 2005	43,110
Projected number of children, 2005	13,510

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Chisago County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Chisago County, a moderately large county, is located in east central Minnesota on the Wisconsin border and is part of the northern edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. In 1996, Chisago had a per capita personal income of $20,519, forty-third among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. Retail trade was the fastest growing industry, increasing by ten percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Better than average economic conditions for children.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of low birth weight babies.

Trends to Watch: Increase in teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	862	9%	1,166	*10% ±2*	906	*8% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			931	9%	683	6%	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,372	23%	1,596	24%	1,823	26%	238,723	28%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	10		9	*16* (a)	21	*19* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	21	4%	19	4%	42	7%	3,801	6%
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			231	47%	216	32%	22,023	32%
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	124	4%	79	2%	53	2%	14,989	4%
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	123	52%	113	58%	95	52%	20,512	48%
Children abused and neglected	65		96		100		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	137		194		179		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		3		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Clay

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	51,816
Estimated number of children, 1997	13,112
Estimated % children, 1997	25.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	13,302
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-1.4%
Projected population, 2005	54,310
Projected number of children, 2005	15,920

(children defined as under 18)

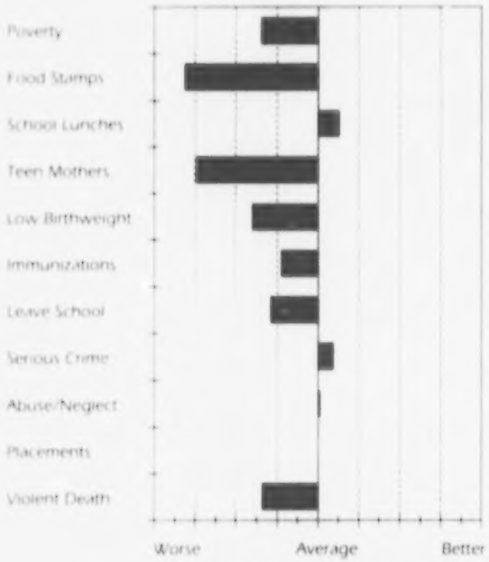
Clay County, a moderately large county and part of the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Statistical Area, is located in northwestern Minnesota on the North Dakota border. Almost eight percent of students speak Spanish at home. In 1996, the county had a per capita personal income of $18,407, the tenth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries were services, state and local government, and retail. Wholesale trade was the fastest growing industry, increasing by almost ten percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Better than average rates of dropping out of school and percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

Concerns: Higher than average teen birth rate.

Trends to Watch: Increase in school dropout rate.

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Clay County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	2,417	*19%*	2,617	*19% ±4*	2,135	*16% ±4*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			2,961	*22%*	2,260	*17%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	2,415	*28%*	2,827	*31%*	2,628	*29%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	23		32	*30* (a)	31	*25* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	30	*5%*	24	*4%*	42	*7%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			371	*52%*	254	*35%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	48	*1%*	61	*1%*	80	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	180	*35%*	308	*56%*	192	*44%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	101		155		90		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	214		266		285		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		1		4		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

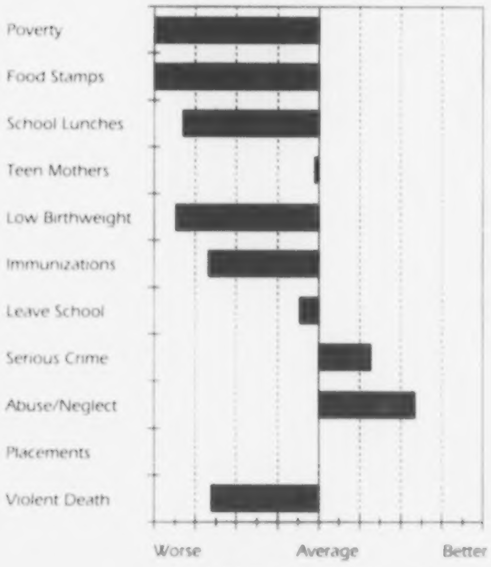
Clearwater

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	8,201
Estimated number of children, 1997	2,338
Estimated % children, 1997	28.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,408
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-2.9%
Projected population, 2005	8,260
Projected number of children, 2005	2,390

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Clearwater County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Clearwater County, in northwestern Minnesota, is the thirteenth smallest county in the state. Portions of the Red Lake Indian Reservation are located within the county. The county's 1996 per capita personal income of $15,643 was the second lowest in Minnesota. State and local government, construction, and services were the county's largest industries in 1996. The fastest growing industry was construction, which increased thirty five percent from 1995.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of arrests of children for serious crime lower rates of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Worse than average economic conditions for children, high rate of low birth weight babies.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen births.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	925	*38%*	706	*28% ±7*	567	*23% ±5*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			567	*24%*	457	*20%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	824	*45%*	906	*48%*	877	*50%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	4		6	*24* (a)	3	*16* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	5	*4%*	4	*4%*	8	*8%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			70	*49%*	50	*41%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	28	*3%*	14	*2%*	14	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	10	*31%*	2	*13%*	13	*37%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	13		6		6		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	32		40		45		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		0		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

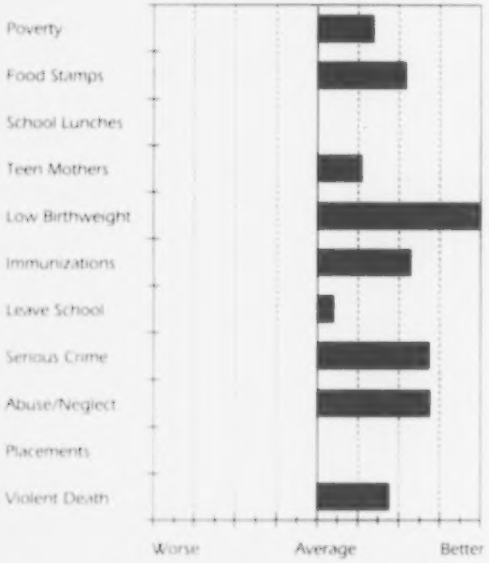
Cook

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	4,740
Estimated number of children, 1997	1,117
Estimated % children, 1997	23.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	962
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	16.1%
Projected population, 2005	4,360
Projected number of children, 2005	1,100

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Cook County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Cook County is the fourth smallest county in Minnesota. It is located in the Arrowhead Region of northeastern Minnesota bordering Canada and Lake Superior. The Grand Portage Indian Reservation is located in the county. Its per capita personal income of $22,347 was the nineteenth highest in Minnesota. The largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. Federal civilian government was the fastest growing area, increasing by more than six percent from 1995.

Positives: Better than average outcomes for many indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: None.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	134	*15%*	110	*10% ±3*	109	*10% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			69	*7%*	52	*5%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	108	*16%*	105	*16%*	N/A	N/A	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	0		3	33 (a)	1	*12* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	1	2%	4	7%	0		3,801	6%
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			16	28%	14	25%	22,023	32%
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	5	2%	16	5%	4	1%	14,989	4%
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	18	38%	5	*10%*	14	25%	20,512	48%
Children abused and neglected	15		6		2		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	12		12		16		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

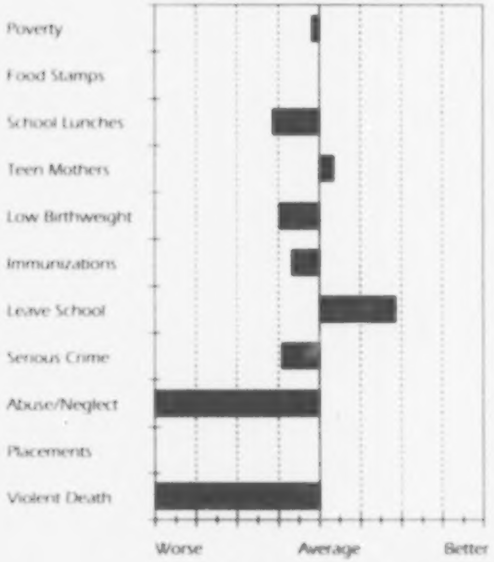
Cottonwood

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	12,257
Estimated number of children, 1997	3,133
Estimated % children, 1997	25.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,273
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-4.3%
Projected population, 2005	12,010
Projected number of children, 2005	3,010

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Cottonwood County



Compared to the Average County 1997
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Cottonwood County is a moderately small county located in southwestern Minnesota. Over eight percent of students speak a language other than English at home, mostly Lao or Spanish. Cottonwood County's 1996 per capita personal income of $21,210 ranked thirty-fourth in the state. The largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was state and local government, which increased by eight percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children dropping out of school.

Concerns: Higher than average substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Trends to Watch: Increase in children born at low birth weight.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	498	*15%*	561	*17% ±4*	427	*13% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			404	*12%*	301	*10%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	749	*31%*	888	*36%*	834	*38%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	3		6	*16 (a)*	4	*14 (b)*	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	5	*4%*	7	*5%*	9	*6%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			74	*39%*	60	*35%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	9	*1%*	9	*1%*	5	*<1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	38	*57%*	30	*36%*	31	*54%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	57		32		50		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	45		56		49		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		3		2		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Crow Wing

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	51,105
Estimated number of children, 1997	13,543
Estimated % children, 1997	26.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	12,332
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	9.8%
Projected population, 2005	54,470
Projected number of children, 2005	14,140

(children defined as under 18)

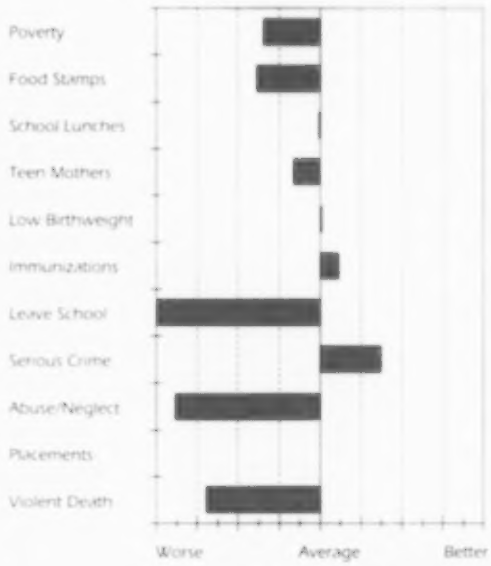
Crow Wing County is located in the north central portion of Minnesota and is the seventeenth largest county in Minnesota. In 1996, Crow Wing County had a per capita personal income of $19,776, which was ranked fifty-sixth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. Finances, insurance and real estate increased by fourteen percent from 1995 to 1996, making it the fastest growing industry.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of arrests for serious crimes were children.

Concerns: Worse than average rates of dropping out of school and substantiated reports of abuse and neglect.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Crow Wing County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	2,592	*22%*	2,580	*19% ±4*	2,178	*16% ±4*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			2,329	*18%*	1,797	*13%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	2,984	33%	3,246	33%	3,342	32%	238,723	28%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	21		24	*29 (a)*	19	*17 (b)*	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	29	5%	26	4%	31	5%	3,801	6%
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			300	*40%*	244	31%	22,023	32%
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	180	4%	235	5%	244	5%	14,989	4%
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	149	34%	130	39%	155	35%	20,512	48%
Children abused and neglected	206		188		184		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	175		247		203		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	5		2		6		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

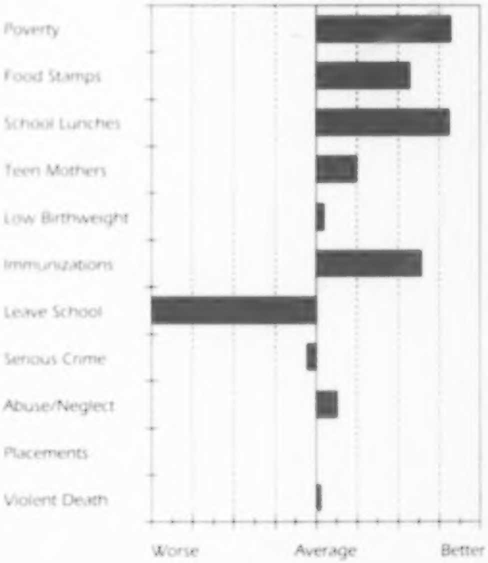
Dakota

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	334,585
Estimated number of children, 1997	98,812
Estimated % children, 1997	29.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	87,463
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	13.0%
Projected population, 2005	380,410
Projected number of children, 2005	109,320

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Dakota County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Dakota County is the third largest county in the state and is located in the southeastern portion of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. Its diverse population includes the three and a half percent of school children who speak languages other than English at home. In 1996, Dakota had a per capita personal income of $27,488, the fourth highest in Minnesota. The largest industries in 1996 were services, wholesale trade, and non-durable goods manufacturing. Services was also the fastest growing industry, increasing by fifteen percent from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Better than average immunization rate and economic conditions for children.

Concerns: Worse than average school dropout rate.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in births to teens.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	4,479	5%	6,757	7% ±3	5,521	6% ±1	148,434	12% ±1
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			5,280	6%	4,388	4%	139,054	11%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	6,292	11%	8,513	13%	9,752	14%	238,723	28%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	66		91	14 (a)	91	12 (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	221	4%	281	5%	268	5%	3,801	6%
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			1,953	37%	1,323	24%	22,023	32%
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	681	3%	880	3%	1,034	3%	14,989	4%
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	1,092	45%	1,334	53%	1,337	49%	20,512	48%
Children abused and neglected	585		501		592		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	805		937		816		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	5		3		16		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Dodge

Dodge County is a mid-sized county located in southeastern Minnesota. Its per capita personal income was $20,760 in 1996, which ranked fortieth among all Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. Wholesale trade was the fastest growing industry in 1996, increasing by eight percent since 1995.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of low birth weight babies; better than average economic conditions for children.

Concerns: Higher than average substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

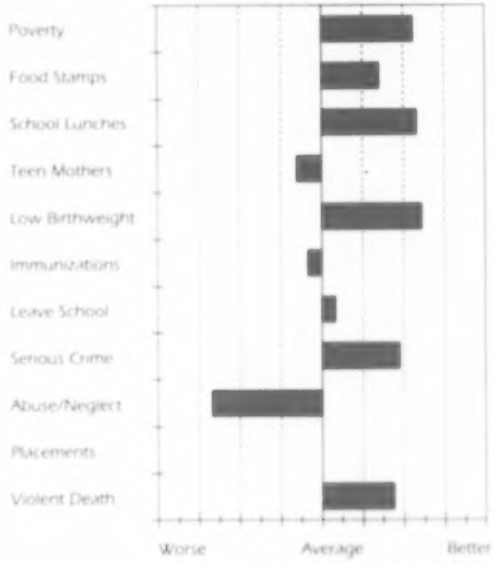
Trends to Watch: Increase in teen birth rate.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	17,002
Estimated number of children, 1997	5,255
Estimated % children, 1997	30.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,113
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	2.8%
Projected population, 2005	17,350
Projected number of children, 2005	5,160

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Dodge County



Compared to the Average County 1997
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	522	*10%*	548	*10% ±2*	423	*8% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			415	*8%*	339	*6%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	767	*20%*	864	*22%*	777	*19%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	8		4	*11* (a)	9	*17* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	14	*5%*	9	*4%*	8	*3%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			123	*45%*	90	*34%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	11	*1%*	24	*1%*	22	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	17	*55%*	38	*53%*	8	*32%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	21		37		63		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	40		36		58		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		1		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

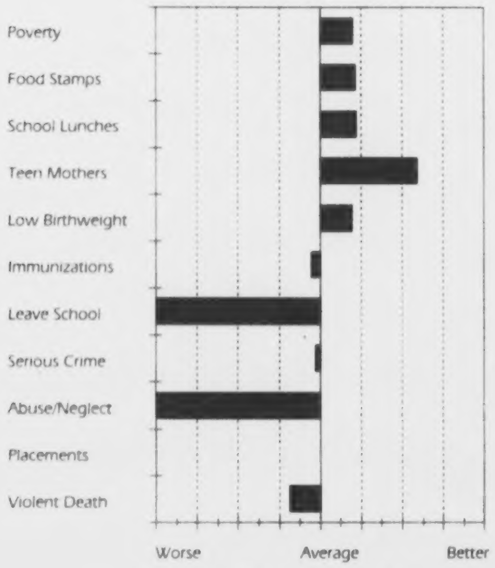
Douglas

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	30,727
Estimated number of children, 1997	8,208
Estimated % children, 1997	26.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	7,928
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	3.5%
Projected population, 2005	32,240
Projected number of children, 2005	8,640

(children defined as under 18)

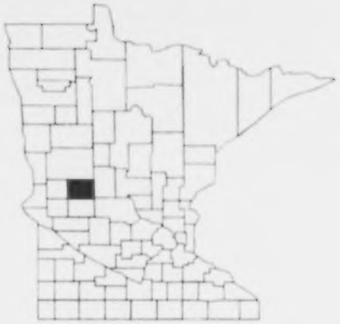
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Douglas County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Douglas County is moderately large county located in the west central part of the state. Five and a half percent of students speak a language other than English at home. Douglas County had a 1996 per capita personal income of $20,047, which ranked fifty-third among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were services, durable goods manufacturing, non-durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry since 1995 was non-durable goods manufacturing, which increased almost fifteen percent.



Positives: Lower than average rate of teen births.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children dropping out of school, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of children dropping out of school.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,229	*16%*	1,184	*14% ±3*	937	*11% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			892	*11%*	633	*8%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,757	*28%*	1,813	*29%*	1,629	*27%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	6		11	*14* (a)	6	*8* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	21	*6%*	15	*4%*	16	*5%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			160	*36%*	144	*33%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	40	*2%*	111	*4%*	137	*5%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	107	*45%*	116	*58%*	149	*48%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	155		104		122		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	27		35		26		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		1		2		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

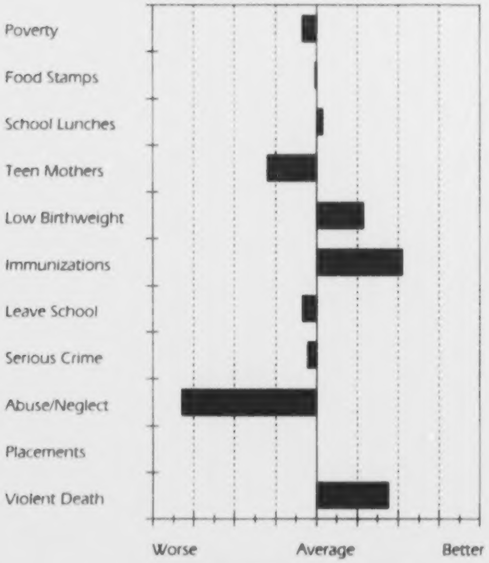
Faribault

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	16,432
Estimated number of children, 1997	4,261
Estimated % children, 1997	25.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,580
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-7.0%
Projected population, 2005	15,280
Projected number of children, 2005	3,940

(children defined as under 18)

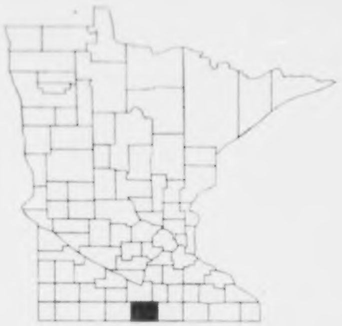
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Faribault County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Faribault County is a mid-sized county located in southern Minnesota on the Iowa border. Almost three percent of school children in Faribault County speak Spanish as their primary language at home. The per capita personal income of Faribault County in 1996 was $19,101, which ranked sixty-fourth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased twenty-five percent between 1995 and 1996.



Positives: Better than average rate of immunizations.

Concerns: Higher than average substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Trends to Watch: Teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	762	*17%*	767	*17% ±4*	601	*14% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			581	*13%*	418	*10%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	904	*28%*	914	*30%*	908	*31%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	4		6	*18* (a)	7	*19* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	13	*7%*	8	*5%*	7	*4%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			69	*30%*	57	*26%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	15	*1%*	22	*1%*	23	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	37	*52%*	26	*54%*	21	*49%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	66		44		56		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	52		59		62		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		0		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Fillmore

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	20,689
Estimated number of children, 1997	5,625
Estimated % children, 1997	27.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,745
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-2.1%
Projected population, 2005	20,040
Projected number of children, 2005	5,330

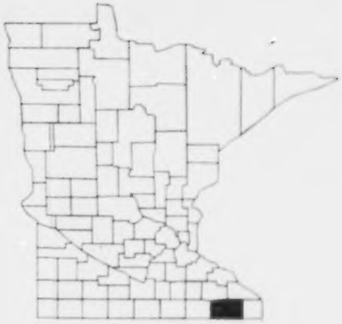
(children defined as under 18)

Fillmore County is a mid-sized county located along the Iowa border in southeastern Minnesota. In 1996, Fillmore County had a per capita personal income of $19,101, which ranked sixty-fourth among Minnesota counties. Fillmore County's largest industries were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. The industry experiencing the largest growth between 1995 and 1996 was durable goods manufacturing which increased by twenty-five percent.

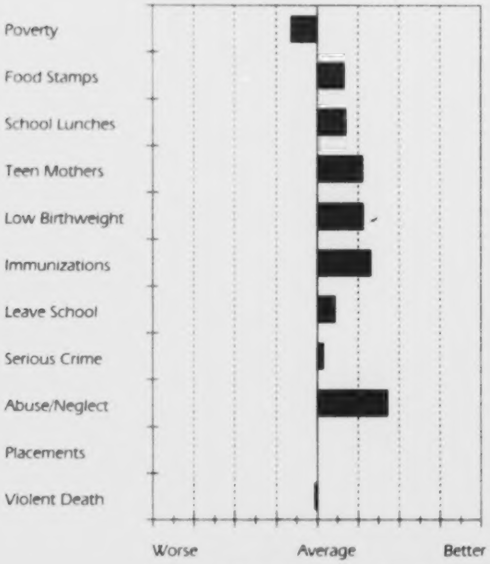
Positives: Better than average rates of immunization and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: None.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate and percentage of children born at low birth weight.



Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Fillmore County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,009	*17%*	986	*17% ±4*	830	*14% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			615	*11%*	460	*8%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	991	*28%*	991	*28%*	984	*28%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	9		4	*17* (a)	8	*12* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	9	*3%*	14	*7%*	10	*4%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			135	*35%*	99	*28%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	20	*1%*	16	*1%*	20	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	0		1	*11%*	17	*46%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	30		28		21		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	29		23		32		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		2		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

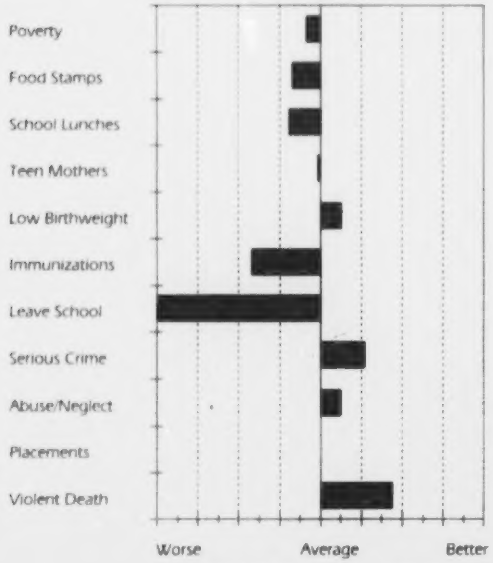
Freeborn

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	31,562
Estimated number of children, 1997	7,969
Estimated % children, 1997	25.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	8,912
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-10.6%
Projected population, 2005	31,030
Projected number of children, 2005	7,490

(children defined as under 18)

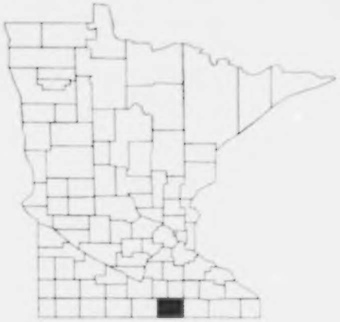
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Freeborn County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Freeborn County is located in southeastern Minnesota along the Iowa border. Over five and a half percent of students speak Spanish at home. It is the twenty-eighth largest county in the state. Freeborn County's per capita personal income was $20,047, which ranked fifty-third among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and non-durable goods manufacturing. Non-durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, which increased almost fifteen percent between 1995 and 1996.



Positives: Near to the average county on most indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of children dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in rate of births to teens.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,273	*15%*	1,365	*16% ±4*	1,117	*14% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,155	*13%*	901	*11%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,218	*24%*	1,439	*29%*	1,376	*36%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	15		20	*29* (a)	7	*16* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	32	*8%*	15	*4%*	17	*5%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			197	*49%*	131	*38%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	108	*4%*	100	*4%*	89	*4%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	180	*50%*	194	*51%*	99	*39%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	101		94		48		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	110		104		122		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		2		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

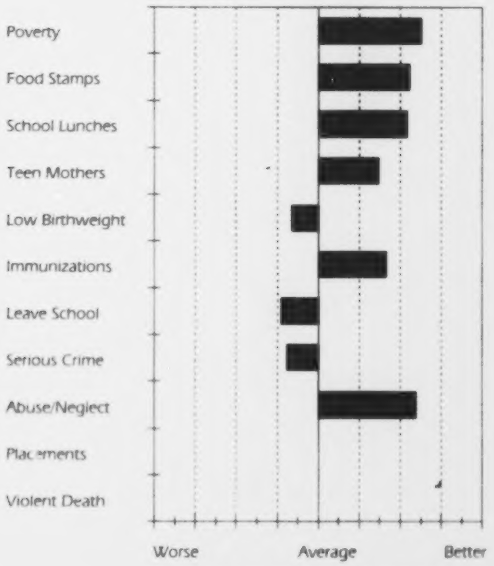
Goodhue

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	42,706
Estimated number of children, 1997	11,705
Estimated % children, 1997	27.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	11,614
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	0.8%
Projected population, 2005	43,600
Projected number of children, 2005	11,810

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Goodhue County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Goodhue County is located in southeastern Minnesota along the Mississippi River and the Wisconsin border. It's the twentieth largest county in Minnesota. The Prairie Island Indian Reservation lies within its borders. Goodhue County had a 1996 per capita personal income of $23,486, the eleventh highest in the state. The largest industries in the county were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The county experienced a twelve-percent increase in the construction industry from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Better than average economic conditions for children.

Concerns: None.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in rate of births to teens.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,052	*9%*	1,056	*9% ±2*	875	*7% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			601	*5%*	534	*5%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,320	*16%*	1,717	*19%*	1,889	*20%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	10		12	*12* (a)	14	*11* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	21	*4%*	25	*5%*	30	*6%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			237	*37%*	174	*27%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	79	*2%*	98	*2%*	82	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	160	*52%*	222	*67%*	145	*53%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	85		109		29		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	133		142		153		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		1		2		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

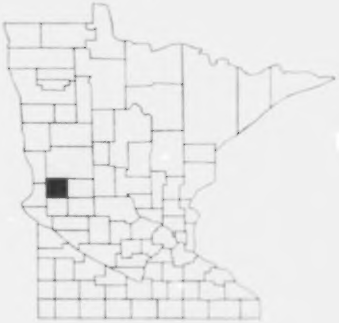
Grant

Grant County is the eighth smallest county in the state and is located in west central Minnesota. In 1996, Grant had a per capita personal income of $23,120, which was the twelfth highest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were services, construction, and state and local government. The greatest growth came from the wholesale trade industry, which increased by fourteen percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

Concerns: Percentage of children born at low birth weight.

Trends to Watch: Increase in teen birth rate.

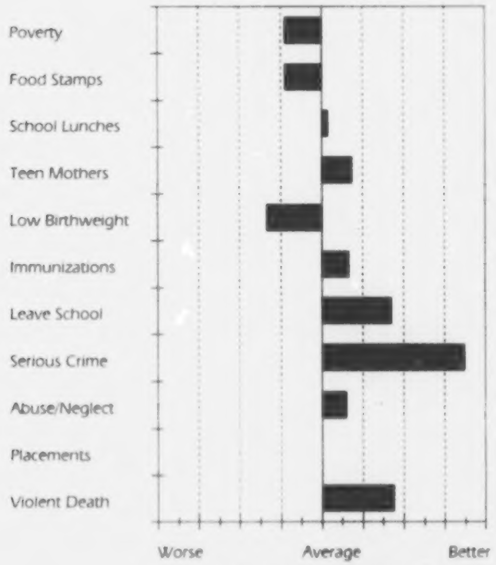


Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	6,141
Estimated number of children, 1997	1,540
Estimated % children, 1997	25.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,609
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-4.3%
Projected population, 2005	5,810
Projected number of children, 2005	1,470

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Grant County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	288	*18%*	260	*16% ±4*	236	*15% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			209	*13%*	181	*12%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	463	*33%*	437	*31%*	476	*31%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	0		0	*6 (a)*	2	*13*(b)*	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	1	*2%*	0		4	*7%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			17	*36%*	23	*30%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	5	*1%*	5	*1%*	4	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	11	*38%*	10	*45%*	10	*20%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	2		14		9		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	9		14		20		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

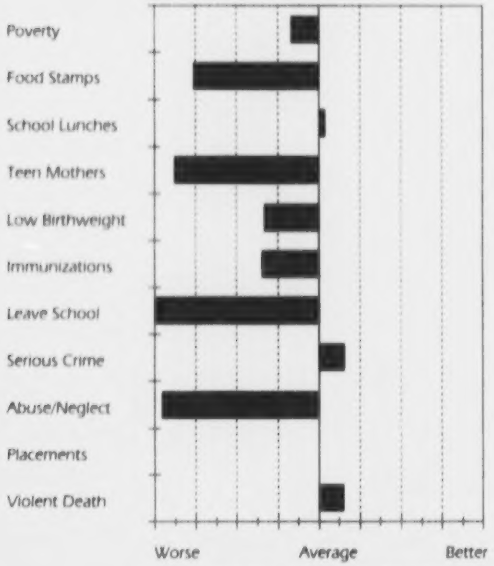
Hennepin

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	1,053,178
Estimated number of children, 1997	244,776
Estimated % children, 1997	23.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	246,930
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-0.9%
Projected population, 2005	1,097,610
Projected number of children, 2005	255,540

(children defined as under 18)

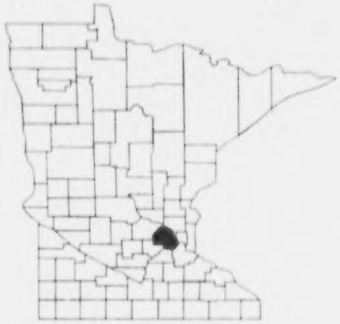
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Hennepin County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Hennepin County, part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area, is the largest county in the state. Hennepin County is ethnically and racially diverse, and nine and a half percent of school children speak a language other than English at home. In 1996, Hennepin County had a per capita personal income of $34,574, the highest in the state. The county's largest industries were services, finance, insurance, and real estate, and durable goods manufacturing. Wholesale trade was the fastest growing industry, increasing by almost fourteen percent between 1995 and 1996.



Positives: Close to average percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

Concerns: Higher than average rates on many indicators, especially dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Increase in school dropout rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	36,924	*15%*	46,466	*19% ±4*	35,618	*14% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			45,985	*18%*	41,021	*17%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	36,828	*27%*	42,535	*29%*	49,154	*31%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	557		555	*32 (a)*	546	*27 (b)*	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	967	*6%*	1,044	*7%*	1,012	*7%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			5,969	*42%*	5,572	*37%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	3,364	*6%*	3,607	*6%*	4,595	*7%*	14,989	*4%*
Children born at low birth weight	4,691	*38%*	5,186	*40%*	5,490	*42%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	3,048		3,390		3,458		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	5,813		6,878		5,095		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	35		37		28		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

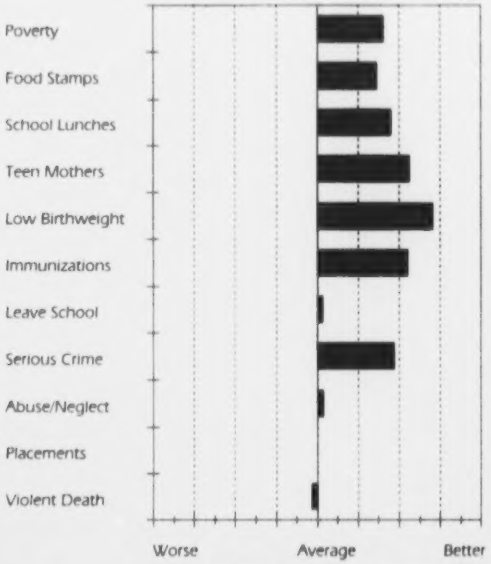
Houston

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	19,228
Estimated number of children, 1997	5,402
Estimated % children, 1997	28.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,325
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	1.4%
Projected population, 2005	19,520
Projected number of children, 2005	5,300

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Houston County



Compared to the Average County 1997

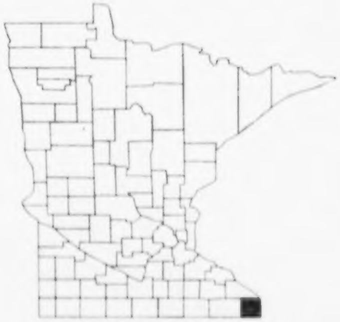
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Houston County is a mid-sized county located in the southeastern corner of Minnesota on the Iowa and Wisconsin borders. It is considered part of the LaCrosse, Wisconsin, Metropolitan Statistical Area. In 1996, Houston County had a per capita personal income of $21,030, which ranked thirty-sixth among Minnesota counties. Services, state and local government, and transportation and public utilities comprised the largest industries. Services was the fastest growing industry, increasing eight percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Better than average on most indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: None.

Trends to Watch: Increase in school dropout rate.



	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	612	*11%*	623	*11% ±2*	515	*9% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			434	*8%*	344	*6%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	774	*20%*	813	*21%*	868	*22%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	7		6	*11* (a)	3	*8* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	5	*2%*	4	*2%*	6	*3%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			132	*44%*	77	*25%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	9	*1%*	25	*1%*	24	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	1	*4%*	5	*25%*	10	*32%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	14		13		36		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	24		30		41		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		1		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

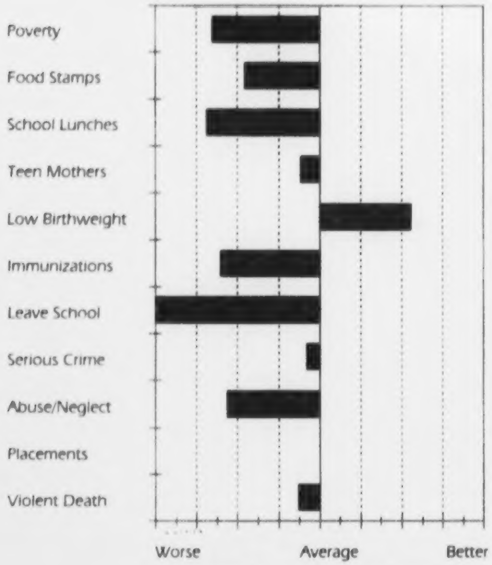
Hubbard

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	16,758
Estimated number of children, 1997	4,472
Estimated % children, 1997	26.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,179
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	7.0%
Projected population, 2005	17,900
Projected number of children, 2005	4,900

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Hubbard County



Compared to the Average County 1997

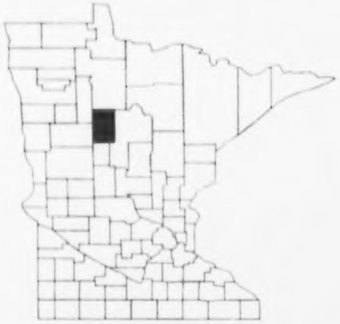
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Hubbard County is a mid-sized county located in the north central portion of the state. Portions of the Leech Lake Reservation are located in the county. In 1996, Hubbard County had a per capita personal income of $16,919, the ninth lowest in the state. Its largest industries were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing by seven percent from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of low birth weight babies.

Concerns: Higher than average rates of dropping out of school and worse than average economic conditions for children.

Trends to Watch: Increase in school dropout rate.



	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,213	*29%*	992	*22% ±5*	840	*19% ±4*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			765	*18%*	623	*14%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,073	*39%*	1,223	*43%*	1,333	*47%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	6		6	*14* (a)	8	*17* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	7	*4%*	14	*8%*	6	*3%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			88	*49%*	74	*40%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	34	*3%*	27	*2%*	66	*5%*	14,989	*4%*
Children born at low birth weight	56	*39%*	60	*37%*	76	*50%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	62		53		50		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	89		72		78		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

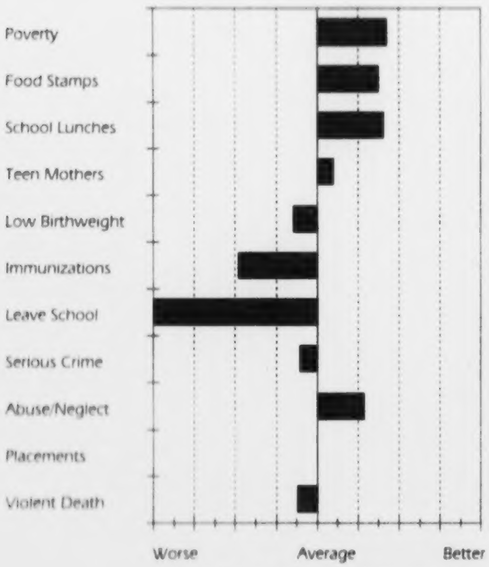
Isanti

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	29,557
Estimated number of children, 1997	9,134
Estimated % children, 1997	30.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	8,324
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	9.7%
Projected population, 2005	31,360
Projected number of children, 2005	9,550

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Isanti County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Isanti County is a mid-sized county located in east central Minnesota on the northern edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. Isanti County's 1996 per capita personal income of $19,761 ranked fifty-seventh among Minnesota counties. Services, state and local government and durable goods manufacturing were the largest industries in 1996. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased by thirteen percent.

Positives: Close to the average county on many indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,034	*13%*	1,094	*12% ±3*	833	*9% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			840	*10%*	571	*6%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,352	*25%*	1,567	*27%*	1,354	*23%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	9		18	*19* (a)	10	*14* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	9	*3%*	22	*6%*	20	*6%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			178	*47%*	147	*39%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	101	*4%*	149	*5%*	144	*5%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	66	*52%*	66	*61%*	52	*50%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	33		52		44		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	121		171		116		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	4		2		2		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

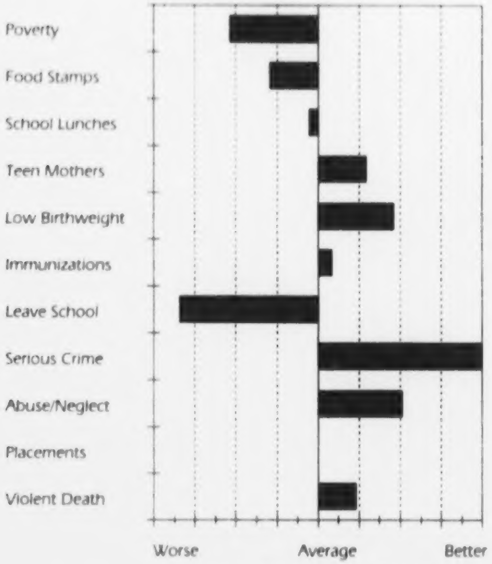
Itasca

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	43,555
Estimated number of children, 1997	12,122
Estimated % children, 1997	27.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	11,729
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	3.4%
Projected population, 2005	42,930
Projected number of children, 2005	11,370

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Itasca County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Itasca County is a moderately large county located in the central section of northern Minnesota. Most of Leech Lake Indian Reservation is located inside the county borders. Its per capita personal income of $17,530 was the thirteenth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were state and local government, services, and non-durable goods manufacturing. The county experienced a sixteen-percent growth in the mining industry, the fasting growing industry between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of arrests of children for serious crime, and fewer than average substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	2,794	*24%*	2,733	*22% ±5*	2,158	*18% ±4*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			2,262	*19%*	1,504	*12%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	3,184	*38%*	2,784	*32%*	2,814	*33%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	22		15	*13* (a)	9	*12* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	29	*6%*	19	*4%*	17	*4%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			249	*44%*	176	*31%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	152	*4%*	106	*3%*	130	*3%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	17	*29%*	71	*51%*	4	*9%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	24		17		38		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	206		286		316		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		1		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

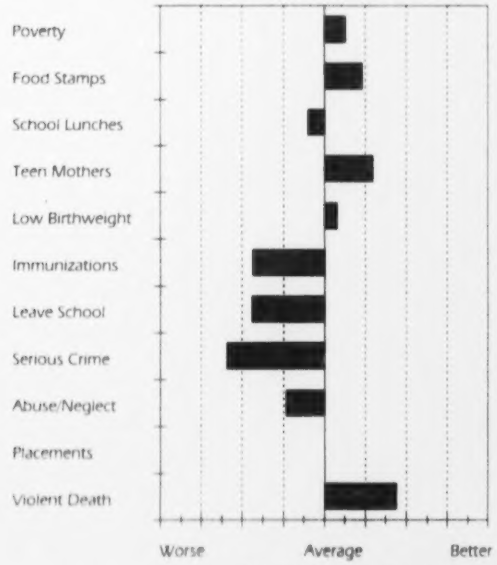
Jackson

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	11,700
Estimated number of children, 1997	3,106
Estimated % children, 1997	26.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,201
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-3.0%
Projected population, 2005	11,310
Projected number of children, 2005	3,050

(children defined as under 18)

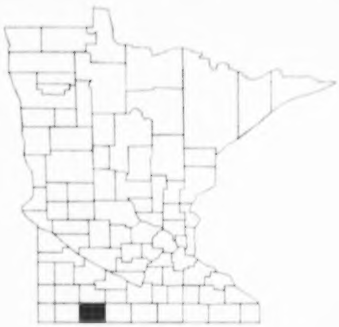
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Jackson County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Jackson County is a moderately small county located in southwestern Minnesota on the Iowa border. Over five percent of Jackson County school children speak a language other than English at home, mostly Lao or Spanish. Jackson County's per capita personal income of $20,650 ranked forty-first among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. The fastest growing industry was wholesale trade, which increased by nearly sixteen percent from 1995 to 1996.



Positives: Lower than average rate of teen births.

Concerns: Higher than average percentages of un-immunized children and children dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in children receiving food stamps.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	735	23%	505	16% ±4	376	12% ±3	148,434	12% ±1
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			376	12%	235	8%	139,054	11%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	693	31%	741	34%	673	34%	238,723	28%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	1		2	9 (a)	5	12 (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	5	4%	6	5%	6	5%	3,801	6%
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			53	32%	58	38%	22,023	32%
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	7	1%	22	2%	21	2%	14,989	4%
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	22	39%	3	23%	29	66%	20,512	48%
Children abused and neglected	12		4		27		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	29		43		63		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Kanabec

Kanabec County is a moderately small county located in east central Minnesota. In 1996, the county had a per capita personal income of $16,365, which was the fifth lowest in the state. The largest industries in Kanabec County were retail, state and local government, and services. The fastest growing industry was state and local government, which increased by four percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Lower than average number of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children dropping out of school and not immunized.

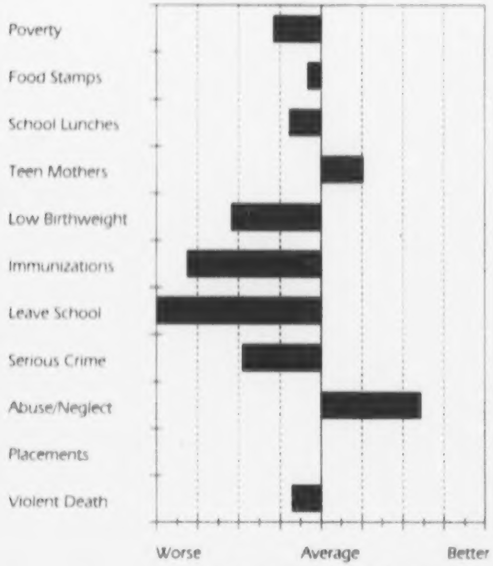
Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	14,042
Estimated number of children, 1997	4,179
Estimated % children, 1997	29.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,930
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	6.3%
Projected population, 2005	13,820
Projected number of children, 2005	4,040

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Kanabec County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	890	*23%*	812	*19% ±4*	653	*15% ±4*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			593	*15%*	436	*10%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	876	*34%*	1,022	*37%*	1,014	*36%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	6		4	*25* (a)	3	*12* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	15	*10%*	15	*9%*	11	*7%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			90	*48%*	84	*43%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	42	*4%*	51	*4%*	50	*4%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	26	*41%*	46	*55%*	100	*62%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	9		22		10		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	24		43		64		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		0		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

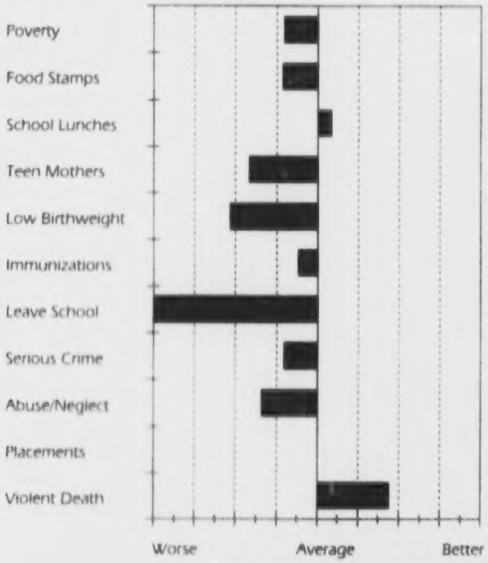
Kandiyohi

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	41,090
Estimated number of children, 1997	11,650
Estimated % children, 1997	28.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	11,922
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-2.3%
Projected population, 2005	43,370
Projected number of children, 2005	12,500

(children defined as under 18)

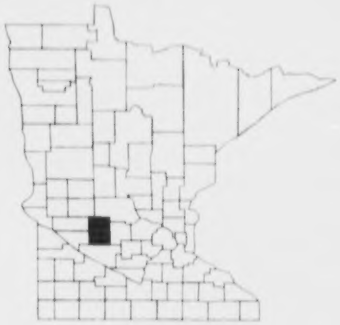
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Kandiyohi County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Kandiyohi County is located in west central Minnesota and is the twenty-first largest county in the state. Fourteen percent of school children speak Spanish at home. In 1996, Kandiyohi County had a per capita personal income of $21,640, which ranked twenty-ninth in the state. In 1996, the largest industries in the county were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry was services, which increased almost nine percent from 1995 to 1996.



Positives: Close to average county on most indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Increase in low birth weight babies, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	2,014	*18%*	2,213	*19% ±4*	1,737	*15% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,982	*16%*	1,360	*12%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	2,409	*33%*	2,262	*30%*	2,211	*30%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	22		19	*26* (a)	25	*21* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	20	*4%*	17	*3%*	40	*7%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			224	*36%*	194	*34%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	158	*5%*	202	*6%*	165	*5%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	269	*53%*	285	*54%*	314	*54%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	77		87		111		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	148		159		132		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	6		2		-		190	

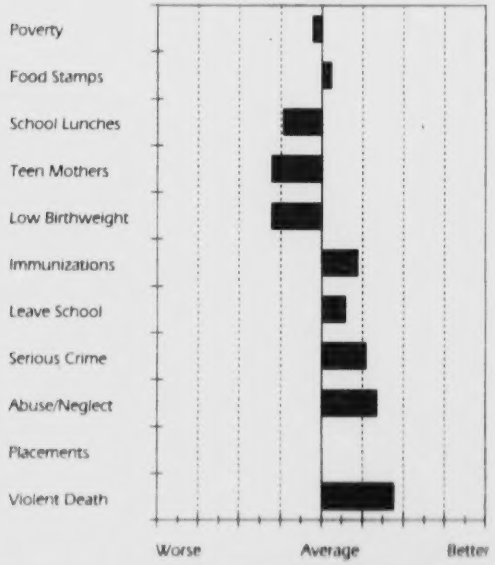
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Kittson

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997 5,358
Estimated number of children, 1997 1,352
Estimated % children, 1997 ....25.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991 1,506
% change in number of children, 1991-1997 ....-10.2%
Projected population, 2005 5,170
Projected number of children, 2005 1,350
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Kittson County



Compared to the Average County 1997
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Kittson County is in the northwest corner of Minnesota, bordering North Dakota and Canada. It is the sixth smallest county in Minnesota. Kittson County's per capita personal income of $20,317 ranked forty-sixth among Minnesota counties. The county's largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. Services was the fastest growing industry in the county, increasing by almost fifteen percent from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Close to average for most indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: None.

Trends to Watch: Increase in teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	239	*15%*	194	*13% ±3*	188	*13% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			143	*10%*	124	*9%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	385	*34%*	397	*34%*	413	*37%*	238,728	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born at low birth weight	0		1	*15* (a)	3	*19* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	1	*2%*	3	*5%*	4	*6%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			25	*26%*	21	*30%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	2	*<1%*	5	*1%*	6	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	0		2	*13%*	5	*38%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	1		5		6		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	4		7		11		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		0		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

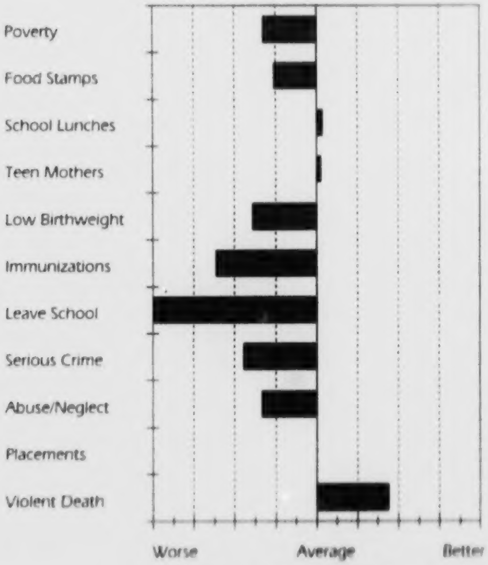
Koochiching

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	15,682
Estimated number of children, 1997	3,907
Estimated % children, 1997	24.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,191
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-6.8%
Projected population, 2005	15,320
Projected number of children, 2005	3,280

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Koochiching County



Compared to the Average County 1997

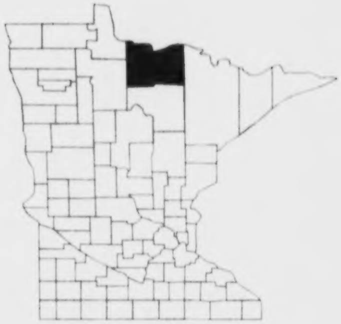
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Koochiching County is a moderately small county located in northern Minnesota on the Canadian border. Part of the Boise Forte Indian Reservation lies within the county. In 1996, Koochiching County had a per capita personal income of $18,595, ranked sixty-eighth in the state. The largest industries in 1996 were non-durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was services, which increased by fifty-nine percent.

Positives: Close to average teen birth rate.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children dropping out of school and not being immunized.

Trends to Watch: Increase in teen birth rate.



	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	902	*21%*	729	*17% ±4*	630	*16% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			627	*15%*	473	*12%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	663	*26%*	670	*27%*	757	*31%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	7		5	*13* (a)	9	*15* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	8	*4%*	10	*6%*	10	*7%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			79	*46%*	94	*41%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	33	*3%*	33	*2%*	45	*3%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	91	*59%*	65	*41%*	84	*61%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	25		28		37		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	63		56		58		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		2		0		190	

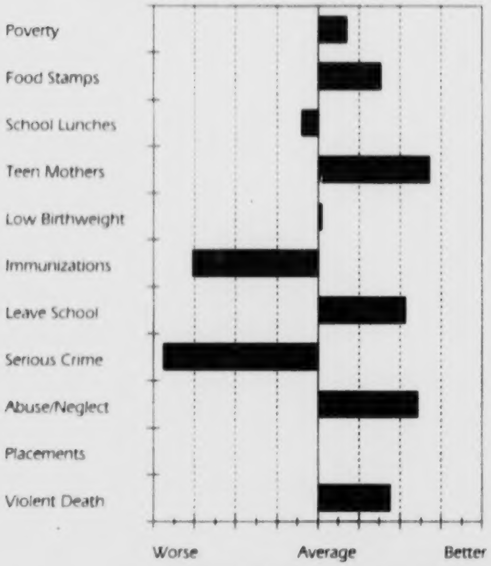
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Lac qui Parle

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997 .8,101
Estimated number of children, 1997 2,086
Estimated % children, 1997 . . . . .25.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991 2,326
% change in number of children, 1991-1997 . . . .-10.3%
Projected population, 2005 7,850
Projected number of children, 2005 1,960
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lac Qui Parle County



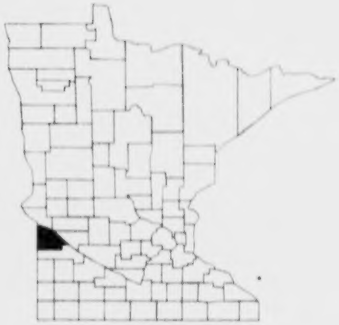
Compared to the Average County 1997
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Lac Qui Parle County is located in southwestern Minnesota on the South Dakota border next to the Minnesota River. It is the twelfth smallest county in the state. Its 1996 per capita personal income of $20,572 ranked forty-second among Minnesota counties. The county's largest industries in 1996 were state and local government, services, and non-durable goods manufacturing. Non-durable goods manufacturing showed the largest increase between 1995 and 1996, increasing at a rate of seven percent.

Positives: Better than average teen birth rate.

Concerns: Higher than average number of un-immunized children and percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Increase in un-immunized children.



	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	320	*13%*	297	*13% ±3*	248	*11% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			164	*7%*	128	*6%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	599	*33%*	610	*34%*	720	*34%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	2		1	6 (a)	2	7 (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	1	*1%*	6	*7%*	5	*5%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			36	*34%*	37	*43%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	1	*<1%*	4	*<1%*	3	*<1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	0		13	*81%*	20	*77%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	4		26		5		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	15		27		24		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		2		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

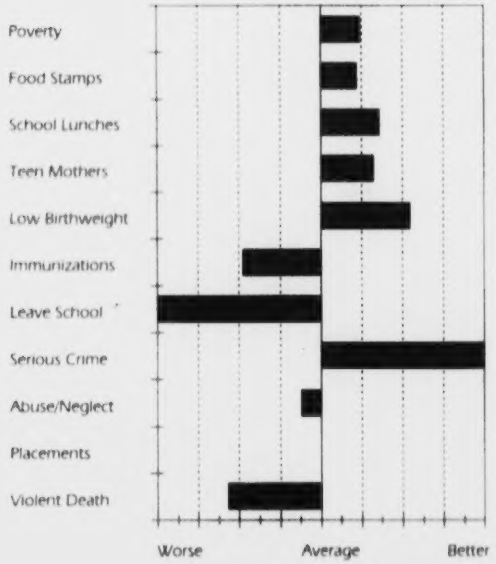
Lake

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	10,716
Estimated number of children, 1997	2,545
Estimated % children, 1997	23.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,542
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	0.1%
Projected population, 2005	10,420
Projected number of children, 2005	2,350

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lake County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Lake County is a moderately small county located in northeastern Minnesota on the North Shore of Lake Superior. It is the eighteenth smallest county in Minnesota. Its 1996 per capita personal income of $18,780 sixty-fifth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were durable goods manufacturing, mining, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was mining, which increased by almost fourteen percent from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Better than average percentages of low birth weight babies and arrests of children for serious crime.

Concerns: Worse than average rate of children dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	329	13%	364	14% ±3	279	11% ±2	148,434	12% ±1
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			298	12%	195	8%	139,054	11%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	586	27%	625	28%	534	24%	238,723	28%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	0		7	20 (a)	3	11 (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	5	4%	2	2%	4	3%	3,801	6%
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			61	37%	55	39%	22,023	32%
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	11	1%	26	3%	46	4%	14,989	4%
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	7	44%	19	49%	1	8%	20,512	48%
Children abused and neglected	12		12		20		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	37		31		39		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

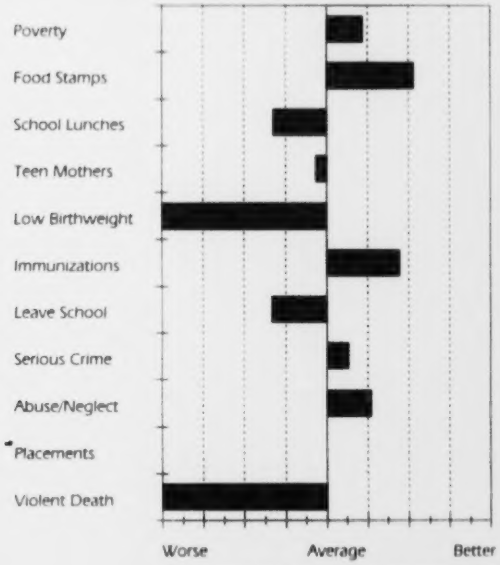
Lake of the Woods

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	4,539
Estimated number of children, 1997	1,218
Estimated % children, 1997	26.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,177
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	3.5%
Projected population, 2005	4,470
Projected number of children, 2005	1,120

(children defined as under 18)

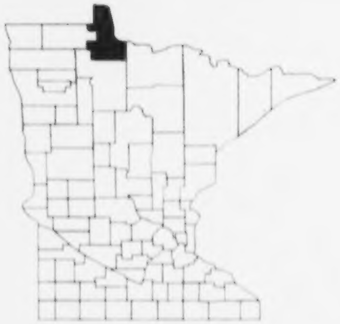
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lake of the Woods County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Lake of the Woods County is located in northern Minnesota on the Canadian border. It is the third smallest county in Minnesota. Portions of the Red Lake Indian Reservation are located in the county. In 1996, Lake of the Woods County had a per capita personal income of $18,768, which ranked sixty-sixth among counties in Minnesota. The largest industries in 1996 were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry from 1995 to 1996 was non-durable goods manufacturing, which increased by fourteen percent.



Positives: Near to the average county on most indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Higher than average number of low birth weight babies.

Trends to Watch: Increase in low birth weight babies and child deaths (may be a one-year fluctuation due to low numbers)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	216	*19%*	163	*13% ±3*	139	*11% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			109	*9%*	58	*5%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	316	*41%*	341	*42%*	336	*39%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	1		2	*19* (a)	2	*16* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	4	*7%*	4	*8%*	4	*12%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			37	*57%*	16	*27%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	7	*2%*	6	*2%*	8	2%	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	2	*17%*	2	*15%*	3	43%	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	4		9		6		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	13		6		14		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

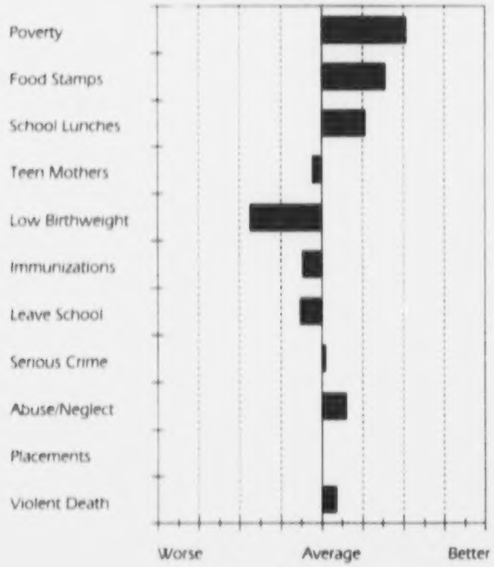
LeSueur

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	24,885
Estimated number of children, 1997	7,214
Estimated % children, 1997	29.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,971
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	3.5%
Projected population, 2005	25,300
Projected number of children, 2005	7,320

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in LeSueur County



Compared to the Average County 1997

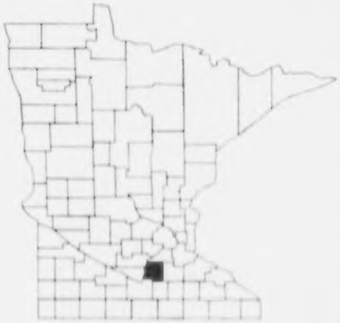
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

LeSueur County is a mid-size county in south central Minnesota. Over four percent of county school children speak Spanish at home. LeSueur County's 1996 per capita personal income of $20,848 ranked thirty-seventh among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county were durable goods manufacturing, services, and non-durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry in the county was construction, which increased by twenty-seven percent from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Better than average economic conditions for children.

Concerns: Worse than average rate of low birth weight babies.

Trends to Watch: Indicators do not show clear trends.



	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	824	*12%*	767	*11% ±2*	610	*8% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			528	*7%*	441	*6%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,029	*23%*	1,457	*26%*	1,376	*26%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	9		6	*16* (a)	8	*16* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	20	*6%*	20	*6%*	22	*7%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			120	*39%*	111	*34%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	25	*1%*	50	*2%*	41	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	16	*23%*	13	*28%*	45	*46%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	44		27		42		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	41		71		70		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		1		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Lincoln

Lincoln County, the ninth smallest county in the state, is located in southwestern Minnesota on the South Dakota border. Its 1996 per capita personal income of $17,558 was the fourteenth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and transportation and public utilities. State and local government was the fastest growing sector, increasing by three percent from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Better than the average county for many indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: None.

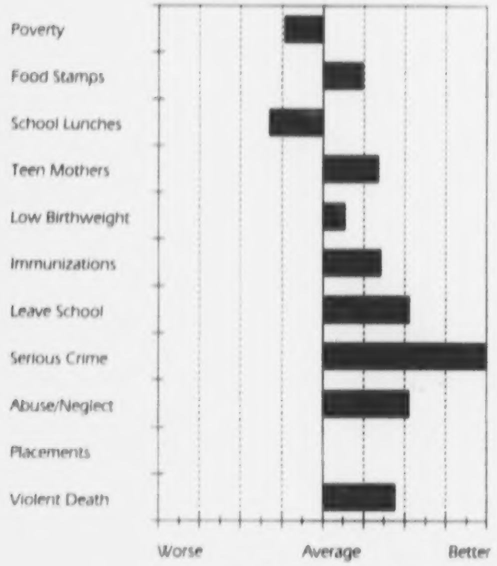
Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of children born at low birth weight.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	6,552
Estimated number of children, 1997	1,662
Estimated % children, 1997	25.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,789
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-7.1%
Projected population, 2005	6,130
Projected number of children, 2005	1,550

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lincoln County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	419	23%	312	17% ±4	257	15% ±4	148,434	12% ±1
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			190	11%	125	8%	139,054	11%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	428	38%	454	40%	407	39%	238,723	28%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	2		1	6 (a)	2	11 (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	1	2%	3	4%	3	5%	3,801	6%
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			16	31%	12	28%	22,023	32%
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	5	1%	4	1%	2	<1%	14,989	4%
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	0		0		0		20,512	48%
Children abused and neglected	8		6		5		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	8		7		7		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Lyon

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	24,518
Estimated number of children, 1997	6,699
Estimated % children, 1997	27.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,835
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-2.0%
Projected population, 2005	25,850
Projected number of children, 2005	7,650

(children defined as under 18)

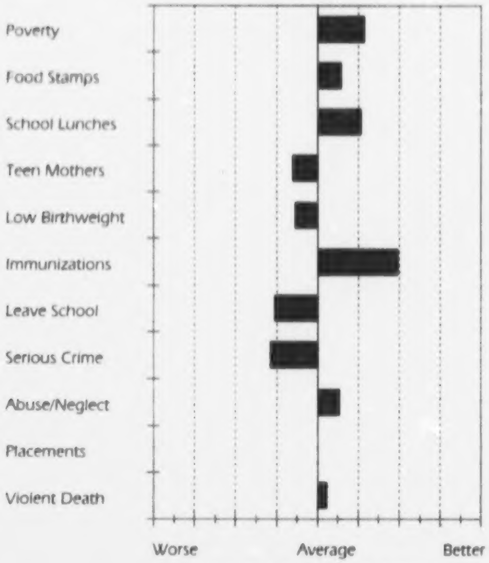
Lyon County is a mid-sized county located in southwestern Minnesota. About six percent of school children speak Spanish at home. In 1996, Lyon County had a per capita personal income of $22,791, which ranked fifteenth in the state. The largest industries in the county in 1996 were non-durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. The construction industry was the fastest growing industry from 1995 to 1996, increasing by just over eighteen percent.

Positives: Better than average rate of immunization.

Concerns: None.

Trends to Watch: Increase in school dropout rate.

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lyon County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	940	*14%*	881	*12% ±3*	717	*10% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			736	*11%*	561	*8%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,513	*28%*	1,630	*29%*	1,467	*26%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	8		10	*22* (a)	8	*17* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	4	*1%*	15	*4%*	20	6%	3,801	6%
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			208	*49%*	111	*26%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	38	*2%*	35	*1%*	50	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	116	*51%*	100	*56%*	81	*56%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	41		61		40		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	105		71		103		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		2		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

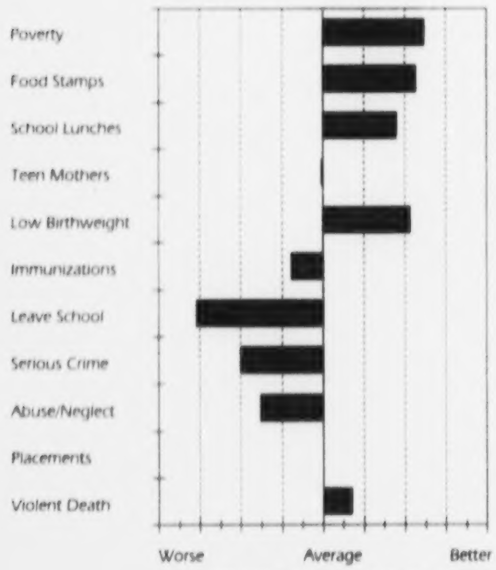
McLeod

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	33,688
Estimated number of children, 1997	9,592
Estimated % children, 1997	28.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,489
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	1.1%
Projected population, 2005	36,100
Projected number of children, 2005	10,570

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in McLeod County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

McLeod County is located in the south central portion of the state and is the twenty-fifth largest county. Almost four percent of school children in the county speak Spanish at home. McLeod County's per capita personal income was $23,117, the thirteenth largest in the state. The county's largest industries in 1996 were durable goods manufacturing, non-durable goods manufacturing and state and local government. Non-durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing by seventeen percent from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Better than average economic conditions for children and fewer babies born at low birth weight.

Concerns: Worse than average rate of children dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	780	*8%*	828	*8% ±2*	727	*7% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			534	*5%*	429	*4%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	857	*17%*	948	*17%*	1,247	*22%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	7		15	*15* (a)	12	*15* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	13	*3%*	22	*5%*	18	*4%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			211	*36%*	188	*35%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	77	*3%*	119	*4%*	90	*3%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	154	*49%*	147	*55%*	190	*63%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	113		142		94		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	55		48		46		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	4		2		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

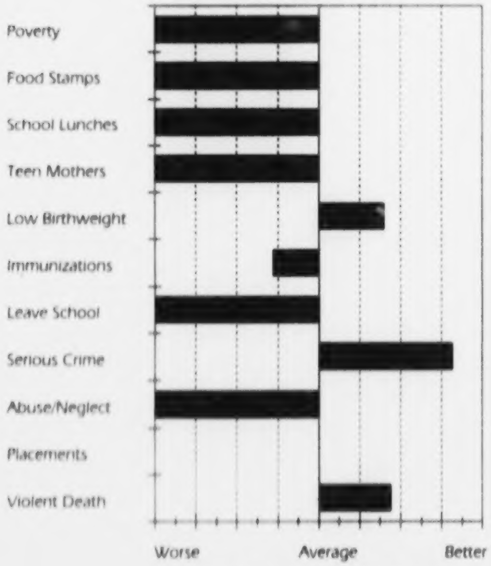
Mahnomen

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	5,089
Estimated number of children, 1997	1,597
Estimated % children, 1997	31.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,587
% change in number of children, 1991-1997'	0.7%
Projected population, 2005	4,980
Projected number of children, 2005	1,580

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Mahnomen County



Compared to the Average County 1997
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Mahnomen County is located in northwestern Minnesota and is the fifth smallest county in the state. Much of the White Earth Indian Reservation is located in the county. The county's 1996 personal per capita income was $16,568, seventh lowest in the state. The largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and construction. Construction was also the fastest growing industry, increasing at a rate of 30% between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

Concerns: Worse than average on most indicators of child well-being, especially the rate of dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of children dropping out of school.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	556	*35%*	442	*27% ±6*	412	*25% ±6*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			339	*21%*	349	*22%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,109	67%	1,177	68%	1,198	70%	238,723	28%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	2		5	*31* (a)	7	*32* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	3	*5%*	5	*7%*	3	*4%*	3,801	6%
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			24	*41%*	35	*36%*	22,023	32%
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	6	*1%*	59	*8%*	92	*12%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	2	*18%*	1	*5%*	20	*21%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	29		18		27		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	59		73		83		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		2		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

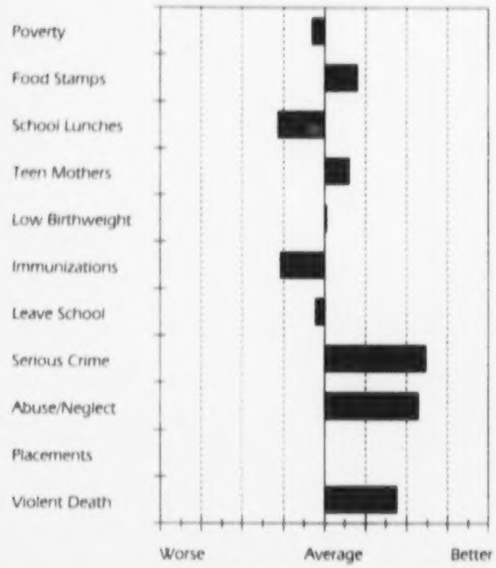
Marshall

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	10,525
Estimated number of children, 1997	2,989
Estimated % children, 1997	28.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,185
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-6.2%
Projected population, 2005	10,120
Projected number of children, 2005	2,790

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Marshall County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Marshall County is the eighteenth smallest county in Minnesota, located along the North Dakota border in the northwest corner of the state. Over four percent of school children in the county speak Spanish at home. Marshall County's 1996 per capita personal income of $19,296 ranked sixty-ninth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county were state and local government, services, and retail. The fastest growing industry was wholesale trade, increasing by fourteen percent from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Lower than average percentages of arrests of children for serious crime, and fewer reports of substantiated child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: None.

Trends to Watch: Rate of teen births.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	564	*0.17%*	461	*15% ±3*	421	*14% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			309	*10%*	234	*8%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	987	*41%*	995	*43%*	716	*38%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	2		4	*12* (a)	3	*13* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	9	*7%*	1	*1%*	6	*5%*	3,801	6%
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			65	*38%*	49	*36%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	6	*1%*	14	*1%*	14	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	16	*53%*	10	*27%*	8	*28%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	12		24		8		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	16		23		30		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		1		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Martin

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	22,243
Estimated number of children, 1997	5,800
Estimated % children, 1997	26.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,173
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-6.0%
Projected population, 2005	21,840
Projected number of children, 2005	5,290

(children defined as under 18)

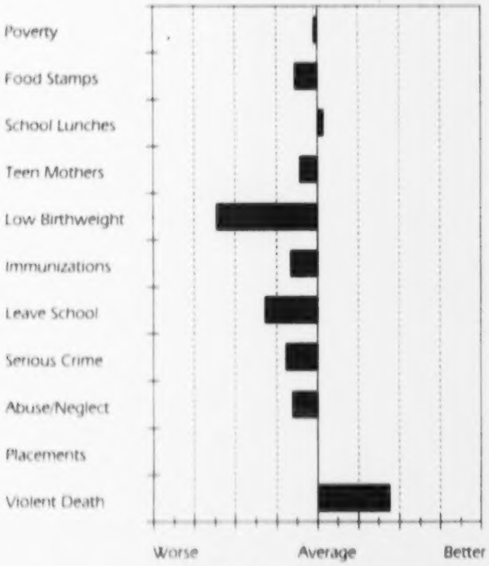
Martin County is a mid-sized county located in south central Minnesota on the Iowa border. In 1996, Martin County had a per capita personal income of $22,085, which ranked twenty-third among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Martin County were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry between 1995 and 1996 was wholesale trade, which increased by more than sixteen percent.

Positives: Close to the average county on many indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of babies born at low birthweight.

Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of children dropping out of school.

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Martin County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	820	*13%*	953	*16% ±3*	781	*13% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			806	*13%*	638	*11%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,387	*31%*	1,329	*31%*	1,354	*31%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	12		7	*18* (a)	7	*17* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	13	*4%*	15	*6%*	18	*8%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			108	*33%*	107	*35%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	24	*1%*	25	*1%*	43	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	56	*41%*	105	*45%*	68	*53%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	28		29		47		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	59		83		118		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		1900	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

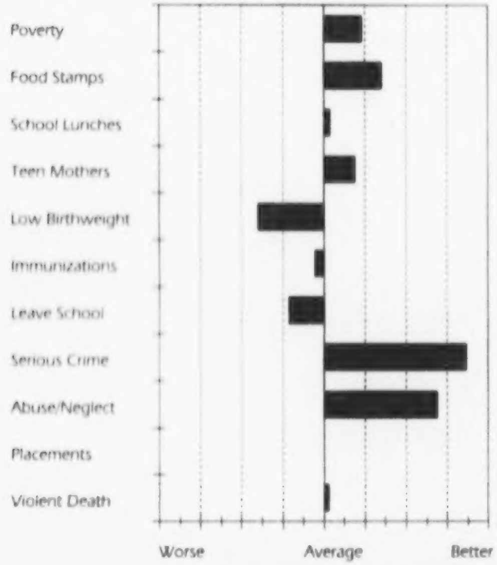
Meeker

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	21,522
Estimated number of children, 1997	6,206
Estimated % children, 1997	28.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,279
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-1.2%
Projected population, 2005	21,340
Projected number of children, 2005	5,980

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Meeker County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Meeker County is a mid-sized county in central Minnesota. The 1996 per capita personal income in Meeker County was $19,252, ranking sixty-second among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were durable goods manufacturing, services, and construction. Wholesale trade was the fastest growing industry in the county, increasing by twelve percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of arrests of children for serious crimes.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of low birth weight babies.

Trends to Watch: Increase in children dropping out of school.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	974	*16%*	883	*14% ±4*	685	*11% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			589	*9%*	401	*6%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,578	*27%*	1,780	*30%*	1,936	*31%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	6		6	*16 (a)*	6	*13 (b)*	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	7	*3%*	11	*5%*	18	*7%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			142	*41%*	94	*33%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	31	*1%*	37	*1%*	56	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	10	*20%*	24	*56%*	13	*20%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	11		9		11		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	54		64		37		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		0		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

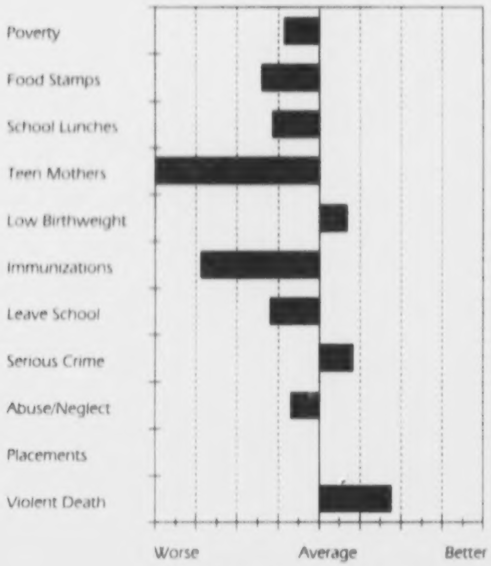
Mille Lacs

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	20,670
Estimated number of children, 1997	5,934
Estimated % children, 1997	28.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,584
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	6.3%
Projected population, 2005	21,220
Projected number of children, 2005	5,650

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Mille Lacs County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Mille Lacs County is a mid-sized county located in east central Minnesota. The Mille Lacs Indian Reservation is located within the county borders. Its 1996 per capita income of $17,903 was fourteenth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was transportation and public services, increasing by twenty-four percent from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Close to the average county on several indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Worse than average rates of teen births and un-immunized children.

Trends to Watch: Increase in teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	861	*16%*	1,050	*18% ±4*	873	*15% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			817	*14%*	770	*13%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	2,009	*35%*	2,254	*37%*	2,374	*38%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	14		11	*23* (a)	13	*28* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	11	*4%*	13	*5%*	12	*5%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			232	*49%*	200	*42%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	42	*2%*	53	*2%*	58	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	53	*47%*	60	*44%*	111	*41%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	84		34		49		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	98		107		120		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		1		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

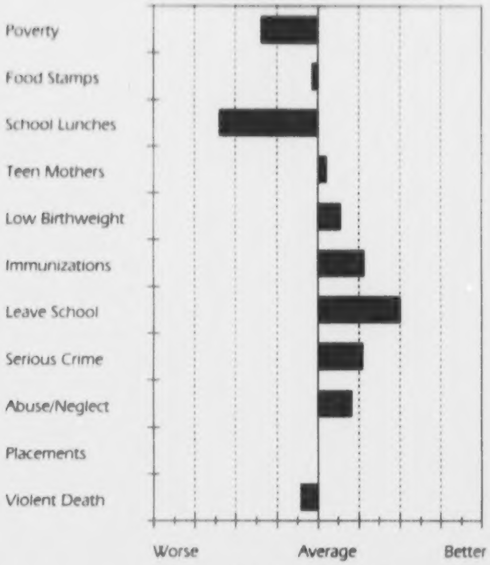
Morrison

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	30,501
Estimated number of children, 1997	9,406
Estimated % children, 1997	30.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,333
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	0.8%
Projected population, 2005	31,190
Projected number of children, 2005	9,340

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Morrison County



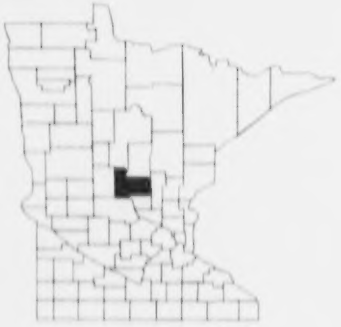
Compared to the Average County 1997
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Morrison County is a moderately large county located in central Minnesota. The county's 1996 per capita personal income was $16,426, ranking sixth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. A thirteen-percent increase in wholesale trade made it the fastest growing industry in Morrison County between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Lower than average school dropout rate.

Concerns: None.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.



	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	2,204	*23%*	1,783	*18% ±4*	1,547	*16% ±4*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,106	*12%*	944	*10%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	3,063	*45%*	2,797	*41%*	3,020	*45%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	8		19	*23* (a)	13	*15* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	13	*3%*	14	*4%*	20	*5%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			185	*37%*	144	*29%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	36	*1%*	18	*1%*	11	*<1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	45	*42%*	63	*53%*	25	*38%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	45		52		51		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	61		51		62		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		1		2		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

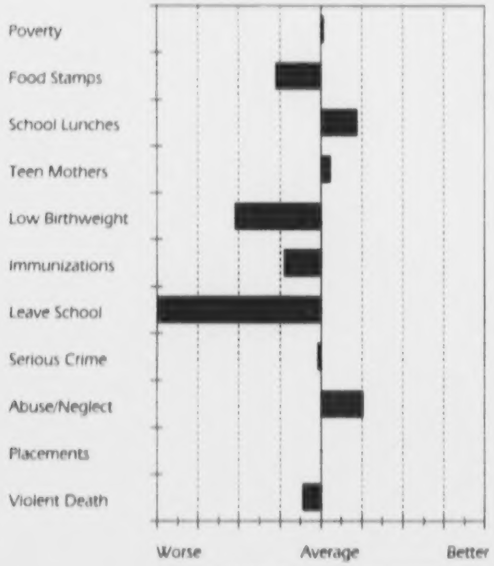
Mower

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	37,132
Estimated number of children, 1997	9,348
Estimated % children, 1997	25.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,685
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-3.5%
Projected population, 2005	36,790
Projected number of children, 2005	9,150

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Mower County



Compared to the Average County 1997

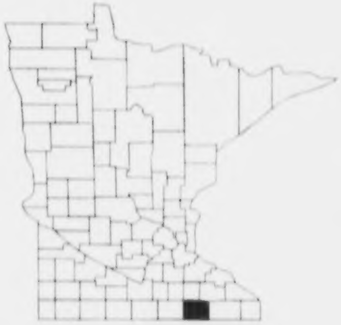
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Mower County is located in southeastern Minnesota on the Iowa border. It is the twenty-fourth largest county in the state. Its 1996 per capita personal income of $23,399 was the eleventh largest in Minnesota. In Mower County, the largest industries were non-durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. Services was the fastest growing industry between 1995 and 1996, increasing by close to six percent.

Positives: Lower than average substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Worse than average school dropout rate.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.



	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,548	*16%*	1,449	*15% ±3*	1,213	*13% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,380	*14%*	1,143	*12%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,677	*27%*	1,912	*28%*	1,843	*27%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	26		26	*25* (a)	13	*15* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	26	*5%*	31	*7%*	31	*7%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			180	*37%*	171	*35%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	95	*4%*	154	*5%*	145	*5%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	146	*49%*	227	*58%*	176	*48%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	54		90		47		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	96		112		196		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		2		2		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

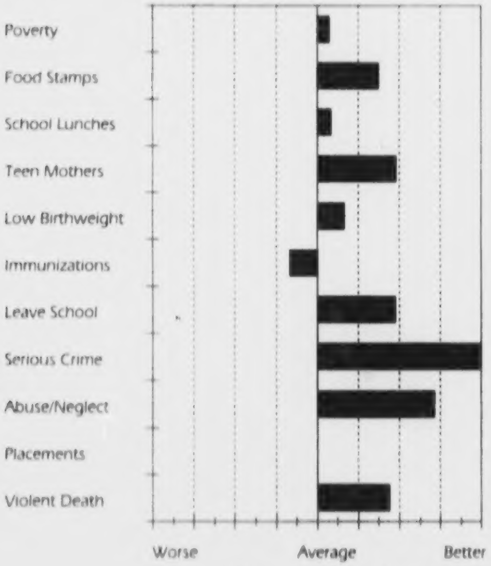
Murray

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	9,527
Estimated number of children, 1997	2,527
Estimated % children, 1997	26.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,633
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-4.0%
Projected population, 2005	8,870
Projected number of children, 2005	2,250

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Murray County



Compared to the Average County 1997

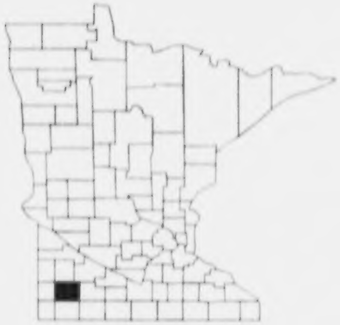
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Murray County is located in the southwestern corner of Minnesota. It is the fourteenth smallest county in the state. Murray County had a per capita personal income of $20,196 in 1996, which ranked forty-ninth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and construction. The fastest growing industry was services, which increased over ten percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Near to the average or better than the average county on all indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: None.

Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of children born at low birth weight.



	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	421	*16%*	393	*15% ±3*	321	*12% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			260	*10%*	158	*6%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	415	*28%*	517	*32%*	504	*30%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	1		1	*7 (a)*	1	*9 (b)*	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	3	*2%*	4	*4%*	5	*5%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			53	*41%*	41	*35%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	2	*<1%*	2	*<1%*	3	*<1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	0		0		0		20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	8		4		4		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	16		10		3		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

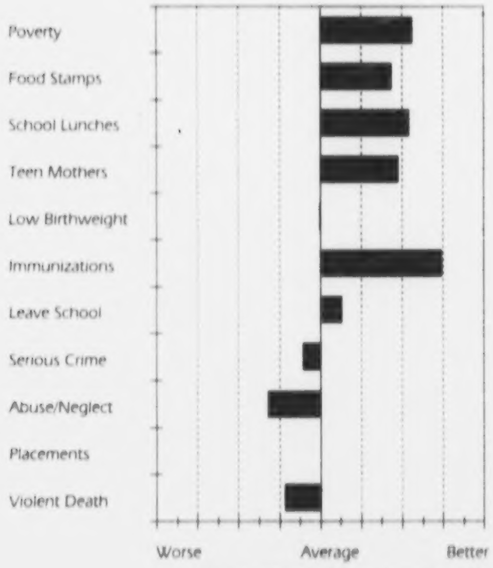
Nicollet

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	30,035
Estimated number of children, 1997	7,815
Estimated % children, 1997	26.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	7,517
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	4.0%
Projected population, 2005	31,640
Projected number of children, 2005	9,230

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Nicollet County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Nicollet County, located along the Minnesota River, is a moderately large county located in south central Minnesota. Nicollet County's per capita personal income of $21,650 ranked twenty-eighth in the state. The largest industries in 1996 were non-durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. An eight-percent increase in the services industry made it the fastest growing industry in the county between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Near to the average or better than the average county on all indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: None.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	981	*13%*	725	*9% ±2*	631	*8% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			581	*7%*	444	*6%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	582	*23%*	591	*21%*	546	*20%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	6		7	*13* (a)	6	*9* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	18	*5%*	25	*8%*	18	*5%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			71	*33%*	45	*23%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	20	*2%*	15	*1%*	14	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	122	*53%*	69	*48%*	66	*50%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	249		51		73		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	79		107		73		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		0		2		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

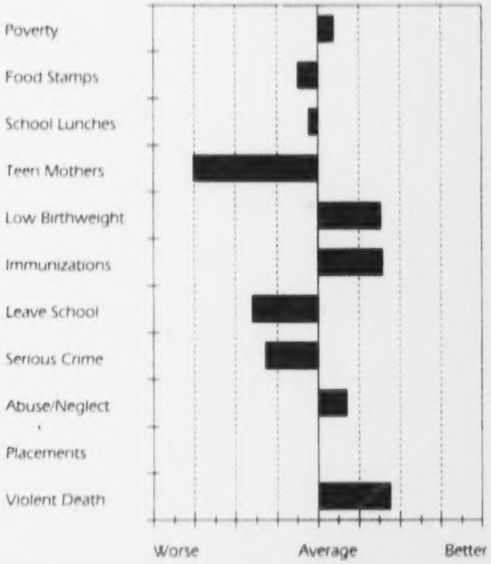
Nobles

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	19,730
Estimated number of children, 1997	5,156
Estimated % children, 1997	26.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,442
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-5.3%
Projected population, 2005	20,610
Projected number of children, 2005	5,770

(children defined as under 18)

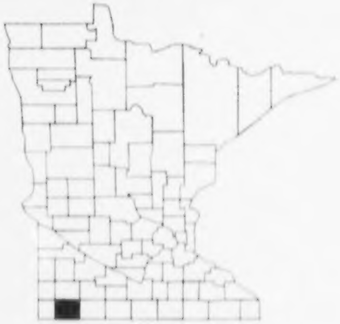
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Nobles County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Nobles County is a mid-sized county located in southwestern Minnesota on the Iowa border. Almost eighteen percent of school children speak Spanish or Lao at home. The county's per capita personal income in 1996 was $21,881, which ranked Nobles county twenty-fifth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were non-durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. Non-durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry in the county between 1995 and 1996.



Positives: Close to the average county on many indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Higher than average rate of teen births.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	*768*	*14%*	810	*15% ±3*	646	*12% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			601	*11%*	560	*11%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,039	*29%*	1,302	*32%*	1,334	*33%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	3		8	26 (a)	15	25 (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	13	*4%*	16	*6%*	12	*4%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			89	*33%*	77	*27%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	56	*3%*	77	*4%*	43	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	0		124	*62%*	135	*57%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	49		19		29		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	67		93		70		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

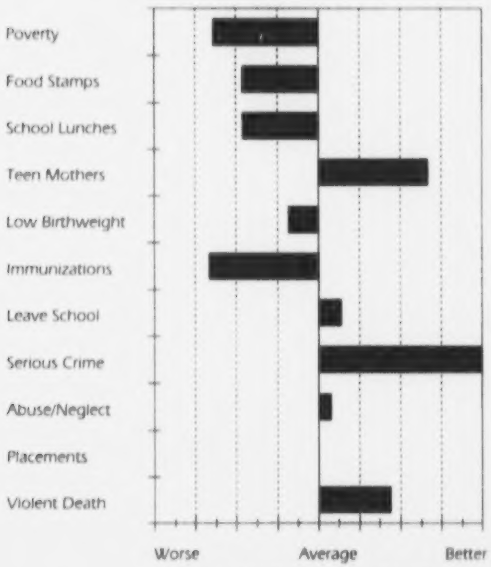
Norman

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	7,717
Estimated number of children, 1997	2,037
Estimated % children, 1997	26.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,157
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-5.6%
Projected population, 2005	7,380
Projected number of children, 2005	1,980

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Norman County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Norman County, the eleventh smallest county in the state, is located in northwestern Minnesota along the Red River and North Dakota border. Norman County's per capita personal income in 1996 was $20,175, which ranked fiftieth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were state and local government, services, and retail trade. Services was the fastest growing industry, increasing by six percent since 1995.

Positives: Better than average teen birth rate.

Concerns: Worse than average economic conditions for children.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	596	*27%*	430	*20% ±5*	391	*19% ±4*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			367	*17%*	285	*14%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	651	*39%*	614	*39%*	614	*42%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	2		5	*11* (a)	0	*7* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	5	*6%*	8	*8%*	5	*6%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			42	*49%*	42	*41%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	5	*1%*	6	*1%*	8	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	0		0		0		20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	10		14		13		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	17		17		17		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

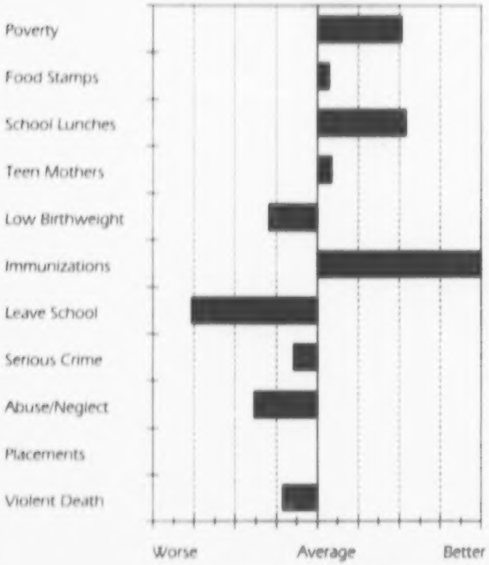
Olmsted

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	114,619
Estimated number of children, 1997	31,376
Estimated % children, 1997	27.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	30,642
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	2.4%
Projected population, 2005	122,490
Projected number of children, 2005	32,850

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Olmsted County



Compared to the Average County 1997

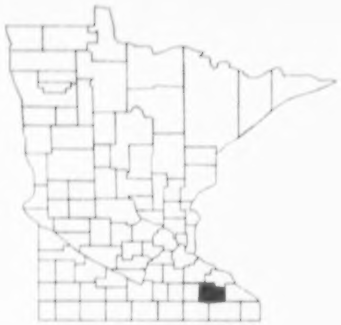
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Olmsted County in southeastern Minnesota is the eighth largest county in the state. Over ten percent of school children speak a language other than English at home. Olmsted County's 1996 per capita personal income of $26,478 ranked eighth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was services, which increased by ten percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Better than average immunization rate.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of students dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Increase in substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.



	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	2,100	7%	2,954	9% ±2	2,648	8% ±2	18,381	
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			2,808	9%	2,832	9%	139,054	11%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	3,381	17%	3,828	19%	4,218	20%	238,723	28%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	29		36	16 (a)	42	14 (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	80	4%	100	6%	114	6%	3,801	6%
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			420	24%	324	19%	22,023	32%
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	208	3%	167	2%	270	3%	14,989	4%
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	544	49%	628	56%	616	52%	20,512	48%
Children abused and neglected	158		174		309		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	227		254		284		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	6		1		8		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

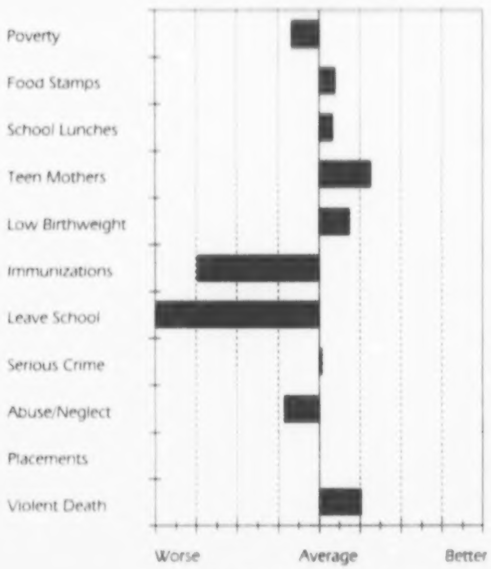
Otter Tail

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	54,222
Estimated number of children, 1997	14,036
Estimated % children, 1997	25.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	13,660
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	2.7%
Projected population, 2005	54,840
Projected number of children, 2005	13,610

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Otter Tail County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Otter Tail County, located in the west central region of Minnesota, is the thirteenth largest county in the state. Otter Tail County's 1996 per capita personal income of $19,271 ranked fifty-first among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. Services was the fastest growing industry in the county, increasing by ten percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Close to average on many indicators of child wellbeing.

Concerns: Worse than average rate of immunization and percentage of students dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	2,811	*21%*	2,558	*18% ±4*	2,065	*14% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,711	*12%*	1,233	*9%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	2,828	*31%*	2,772	*30%*	2,891	*30%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	11		10	*15* (a)	12	*11* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	33	*5%*	19	*3%*	28	*5%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			366	*53%*	294	*42%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	113	*3%*	182	*4%*	199	*4%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	168	*37%*	169	*46%*	192	*47%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	137		120		120		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	205		208		195		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		4		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

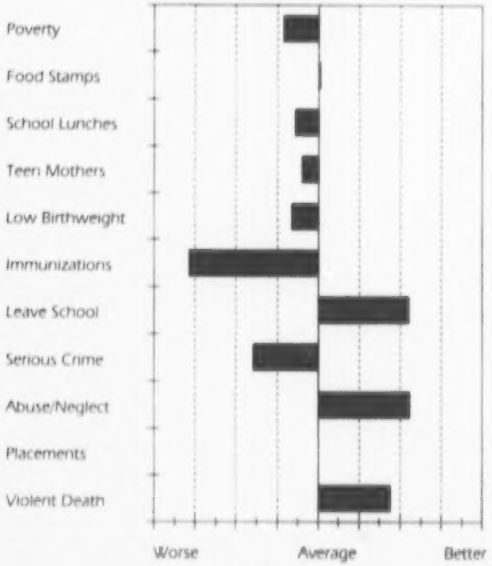
Pennington

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	13,547
Estimated number of children, 1997	3,588
Estimated % children, 1997	26.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,650
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-1.7%
Projected population, 2005	13,370
Projected number of children, 2005	3,620

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Pennington County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Pennington County is a moderately small county located in northwestern Minnesota. Its 1996 per capita personal income of $20,209 ranked forty-eighth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. Services was the fastest growing industry in the county, increasing by eleven percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Better than average rates of school dropouts and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Worse than average rate of immunizations.

Trends to Watch: Increase in children born at low birth weight.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	708	*19%*	658	*18% ±4*	543	*15% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			555	*15%*	344	*10%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	922	*37%*	915	*38%*	832	*35%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	5		2	*15* (a)	6	*17* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	6	*4%*	5	*3%*	10	*6%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			78	*44%*	74	*43%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	7	*1%*	14	*1%*	3	*<1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	61	*41%*	102	*42%*	143	*60%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	8		9		10		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	19		24		31		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		1		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Pine

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	23,574
Estimated number of children, 1997	6,642
Estimated % children, 1997	28.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,160
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	7.8%
Projected population, 2005	23,920
Projected number of children, 2005	6,660

(children defined as under 18)

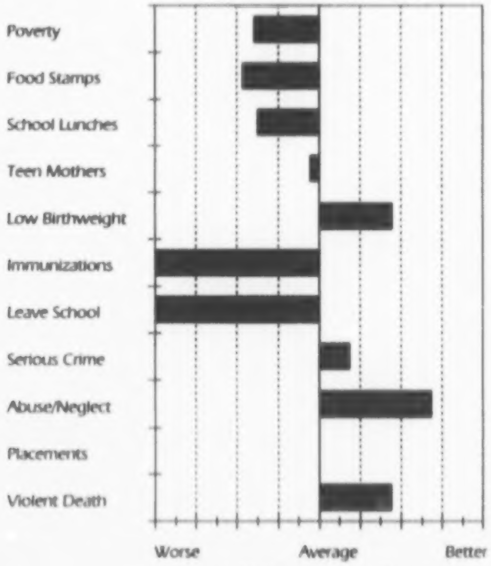
Pine County is a mid-sized county located in east central Minnesota on the Wisconsin border. The county's 1996 per capita personal income of $16,354 was the fourth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry in Pine County was durable goods manufacturing, which increased almost fourteen percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Lower than average substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Higher than average rates of children dropping out of school and children not immunized.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in the teen birth rate.

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Pine County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,519	*26%*	1,263	*20% ±4*	1,071	*16% ±4*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,102	*17%*	933	*14%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,732	*39%*	1,892	*41%*	1,821	*40%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	17		13	*21* (a)	14	*16* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	14	*5%*	18	*7%*	10	*4%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			145	*50%*	139	*46%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	61	*3%*	104	*5%*	101	*4%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	26	*35%*	33	*42%*	38	*41%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	11		11		12		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	91		94		91		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Pipestone

Pipestone County is located in the southwestern corner of the state along the South Dakota border. It's the sixteenth smallest county in Minnesota. Pipestone County had a per capita personal income of $20,052, which ranked fifty-second among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and retail. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry between 1995 and 1996, increasing by more than thirty-three percent.

Positives: Better than average rates of teen births and low birth weight babies.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children dropping out of school.

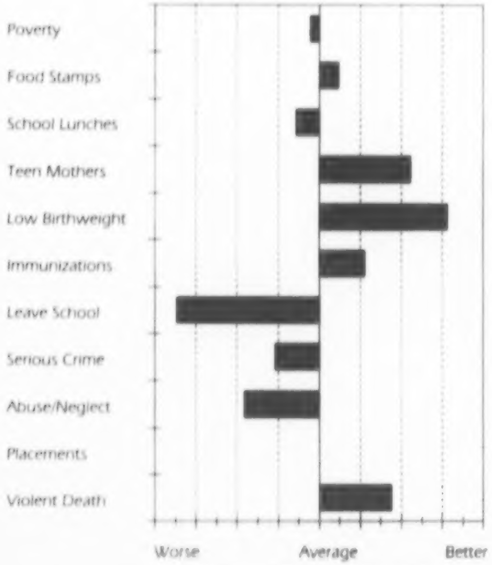
Trends to Watch: Increase in the school dropout rate.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	10,083
Estimated number of children, 1997	2,788
Estimated % children, 1997	27.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,940
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-5.2%
Projected population, 2005	9,830
Projected number of children, 2005	2,670

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Pipestone County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	487	*17%*	438	*15% ±3*	381	*13% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			289	*10%*	240	*9%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	819	*31%*	833	*32%*	865	*35%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	4		1	*8* (a)	0	*8* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	6	*4%*	3	*3%*	3	*3%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			89	*38%*	56	*29%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	2	*<1%*	11	*1%*	26	*3%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	12	*71%*	24	*75%*	25	*56%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	24		34		29		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	54		53		35		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

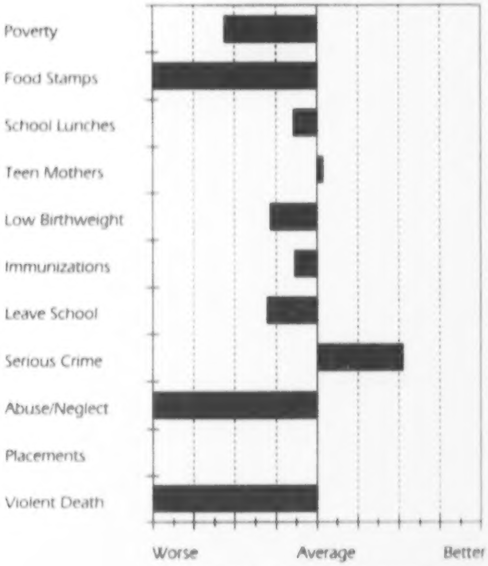
Polk

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	32,091
Estimated number of children, 1997	8,885
Estimated % children, 1997	27.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,711
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-8.5%
Projected population, 2005	32,120
Projected number of children, 2005	8,870

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Polk County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Polk County is a moderately large county in northwest Minnesota on the North Dakota border and the Red River. Over five percent of school children in Polk County speak Spanish at home. Its per capita personal income of $19,309 ranked fifty-ninth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1996 were services, state and local government, and retail. The fastest growing industry between 1995 and 1996 was durable goods manufacturing, which increased by twenty-four percent.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

Concerns: Worse than average economic conditions for children and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in the teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	2,318	*25%*	2,044	*22% ±5*	1,635	*18% ±4*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			2,171	*22%*	1,691	*19%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	2,329	*36%*	2,291	*34%*	2,246	*35%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	12		19	*22 (a)*	9	*15 (b)*	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	23	*5%*	12	*3%*	25	*6%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			290	*44%*	170	*34%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	78	*3%*	59	*2%*	63	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	65	*24%*	100	*42%*	36	*31%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	147		138		155		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	159		148		231		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		2		5		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Pope

Pope County is a moderately small county located in west central Minnesota. The county's $18,301 per capita personal income in 1996 ranked seventeenth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were state and local government, services, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry in Pope County was wholesale trade, which increased almost six percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Lower than average teen birth and school dropout rates.

Concerns: Worse than average rate of un-immunized children.

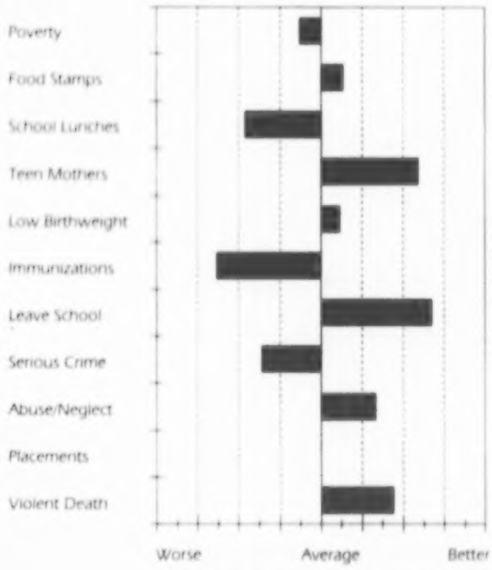
Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	10,902
Estimated number of children, 1997	2,922
Estimated % children, 1997	26.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,951
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-1.0%
Projected population, 2005	10,760
Projected number of children, 2005	2,310

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Pope County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	593	*20%*	533	*17% ±4*	426	*14% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			365	*12%*	248	*8%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	593	*33%*	824	*46%*	772	*42%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	2		3	*13* (a)	2	*8* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	6	*5%*	3	*3%*	6	*5%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			62	*45%*	51	*41%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	5	*1%*	5	*1%*	0		14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	38	*49%*	9	*19%*	24	*59%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	25		23		13		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	20		33		28		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		1		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

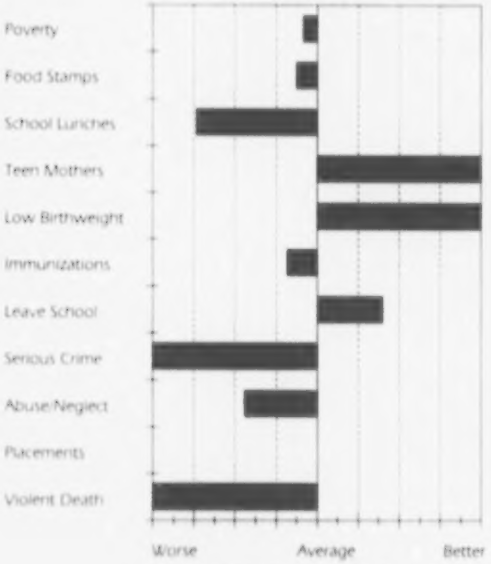
Red Lake

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	4,344
Estimated number of children, 1997	1,264
Estimated % children, 1997	29.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,359
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-7.0%
Projected population, 2005	4,210
Projected number of children, 2005	1,180

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Red Lake County



Compared to the Average County 1997
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Red Lake County is the second smallest county in the state, and is located in northwestern Minnesota. Its 1996 per capita personal income of $15,798 was the third lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1996 were state and local government, services, and transportation and public utilities. Retail trade was the fastest growing industry, increasing by almost seven percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Better than average teen birth rate and percentage of children born at low birth weight.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: No clear trends emerge.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	269	*19%*	203	*15% ±3*	181	*14% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			170	*13%*	137	*11%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	507	*45%*	549	*50%*	486	*48%*	238,725	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	1		0	*12* (a)	0	- (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	3	*7%*	1	*2%*	0		3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			15	*23%*	22	*35%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	5	*1%*	0		3	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	1	*25%*	4	*40%*	8	*89%*	20,512	*48%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	3		5		13		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	8		7		11		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		2		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Redwood

Redwood County is a mid-sized county located in southwestern Minnesota along the Minnesota River. The Lower Sioux Indian Reservation lies on its border. Its 1996 per capita personal income of $22,210 ranked twenty-first in the state. The largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. Construction was the fastest growing industry between 1995 and 1996, increasing by eleven percent.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children born at low birth weight.

Concerns: None.

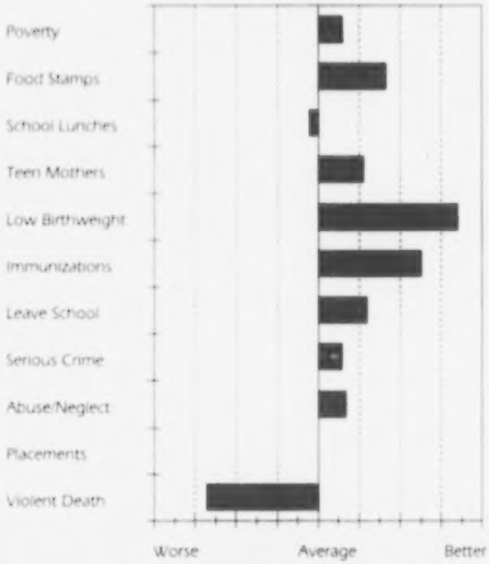
Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	16,656
Estimated number of children, 1997	4,577
Estimated % children, 1997	27.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,869
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-6.0%
Projected population, 2005	16,500
Projected number of children, 2005	4,460

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Redwood County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	741	*15%*	648	*13% ±3*	553	*12% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			367	*8%*	270	*6%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	895	*27%*	965	*29%*	1,247	*33%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	2		7	*15* (a)	9	*12* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	5	*2%*	7	*4%*	5	*2%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			84	*29%*	76	*24%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	15	*1%*	21	*1%*	12	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	37	*44%*	92	*69%*	69	*43%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	23		25		26		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	55		79		76		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		2		2		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Renville

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	17,066
Estimated number of children, 1997	4,654
Estimated % children, 1997	27.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,006
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-7.0%
Projected population, 2005	16,690
Projected number of children, 2005	4,550

(children defined as under 18)

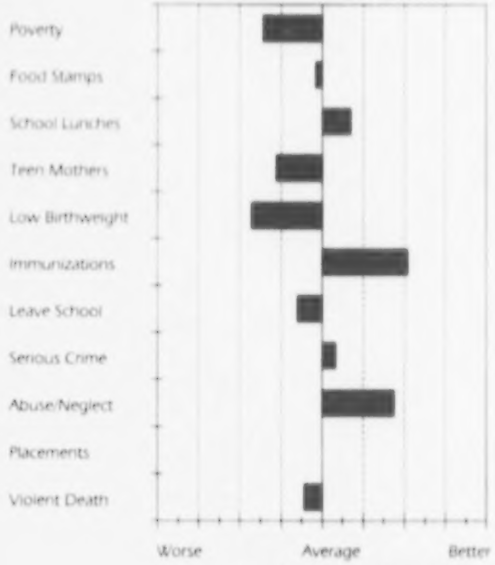
Renville County is a mid-sized county in south central Minnesota. The Upper Sioux Indian Reservation lies along its border. Over eleven percent of school children speak Spanish at home. The county's 1996 per capita personal income of $22,383 ranked eighteenth in the state. The largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and non-durable goods manufacturing. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing by twenty-three percent from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Better than average rate of immunization.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of low birth weight babies.

Trends to Watch: Increase in the percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Renville County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,013	*20%*	1,003	*20% ±5*	773	*16% ±4*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			715	*15%*	469	*10%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	901	*27%*	1,020	*32%*	843	*28%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	5		5	*20* (a)	8	*19* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	3	*1%*	16	*8%*	14	*7%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			93	*32%*	43	*26%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	13	*1%*	32	*2%*	24	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	2	*8%*	6	*23%*	16	*44%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	28		52		17		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	56		56		52		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		2		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

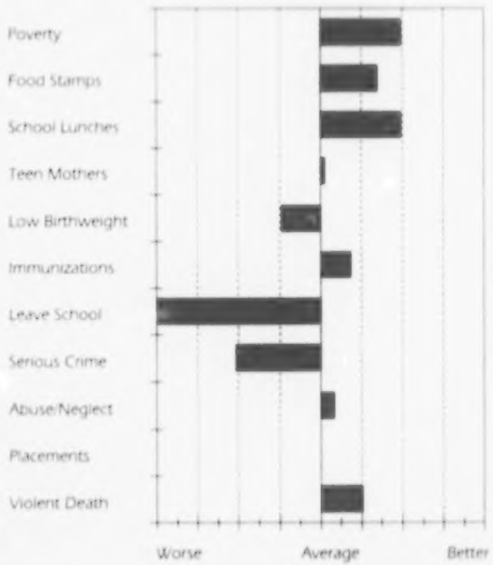
Rice

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	53,590
Estimated number of children, 1997	13,838
Estimated % children, 1997	25.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	13,371
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	3.5%
Projected population, 2005	56,390
Projected number of children, 2005	16,550

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Rice County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Rice County is located in the southeast region of Minnesota. Over eight percent of the county's children speak a language other than English at home. It is the fifteenth largest county in the state, and ranked forty-seventh among Minnesota counties with its 1996 per capita personal income of $20,314. The largest industries were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. Wholesale trade was the fastest growing industry, increasing by ten percent from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Better than the average county on most indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of children dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,187	*9%*	1,410	*10% ±2*	1,177	*9% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,115	*8%*	898	*6%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	2,154	*25%*	1,973	*23%*	1,948	*21%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	18		18	*19* (a)	25	*15* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	26	*4%*	35	*5%*	43	*6%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			238	*35%*	192	*30%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	126	*4%*	147	*4%*	139	*3%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	128	*48%*	250	*71%*	240	*63%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	23		68		88		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	121		84		85		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		2		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

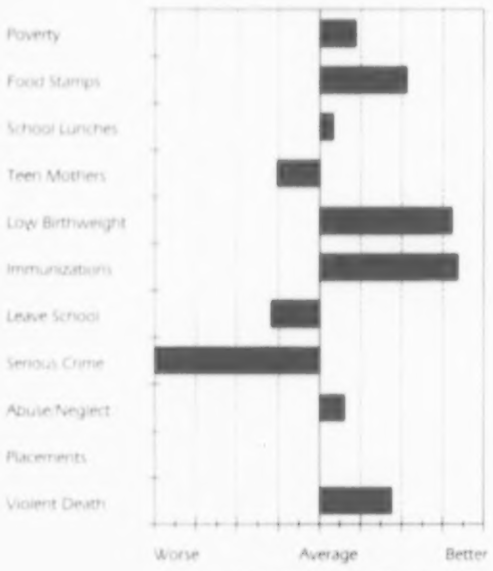
Rock

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	9,889
Estimated number of children, 1997	2,753
Estimated % children, 1997	27.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,784
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-1.1%
Projected population, 2005	9,210
Projected number of children, 2005	2,380

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Rock County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Rock County is the fifteenth smallest county and is located in the southwest corner of Minnesota, bordering South Dakota and Iowa. Rock County's per capita personal income of $21,706 ranked twenty-sixth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and non-durable goods manufacturing. Services was the fastest growing industry from 1995 to 1996, increasing at a rate of just over fourteen percent.

Positives: Better than average or close to average on most indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Increase in teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	365	*13%*	352	*12% ±3*	310	*11% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			174	*6%*	133	*5%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	485	*26%*	552	*29%*	554	*30%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	3		4	*13* (a)	9	*19* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	2	*2%*	6	*5%*	3	*3%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			43	*32%*	28	*22%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	10	*1%*	9	*1%*	17	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	0		0		10	*91%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	11		21		16		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	11		26		45		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		1		0		190	

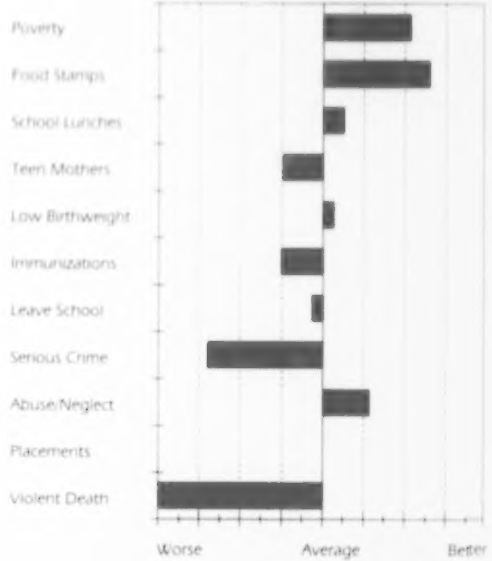
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Roseau

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997 16,302
Estimated number of children, 1997 5,010
Estimated % children, 1997 .... 30.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991 4,801
% change in number of children, 1991-1997 .... 4.4%
Projected population, 2005 17,150
Projected number of children, 2005 5,360
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Roseau County



Compared to the Average County 1997
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Roseau County is a mid-sized county in northern Minnesota. It had a 1996 per capita personal income of $20,462. This ranked Roseau forty-fifth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Roseau County in 1996 were durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. Services was the fastest growing industry, increasing by almost thirty-four percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Better than average economic conditions for children.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	511	*11%*	493	*10% ±2*	414	*8% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			265	*5%*	184	*4%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	997	*29%*	1,051	*29%*	1,114	*29%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	5		10	*24 (a)*	3	*19 (b)*	2,011	*18 (b)*
Children born at low birth weight	11	*5%*	13	*5%*	14	*5%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			137	*47%*	101	*36%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	12	*1%*	10	*1%*	26	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	21	*50%*	35	*65%*	27	*69%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	16		12		24		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	25		27		27		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		1		3		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

St. Louis

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	194,989
Estimated number of children, 1997	47,201
Estimated % children, 1997	24.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	48,955
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-3.6%
Projected population, 2005	197,520
Projected number of children, 2005	50,250

(children defined as under 18)

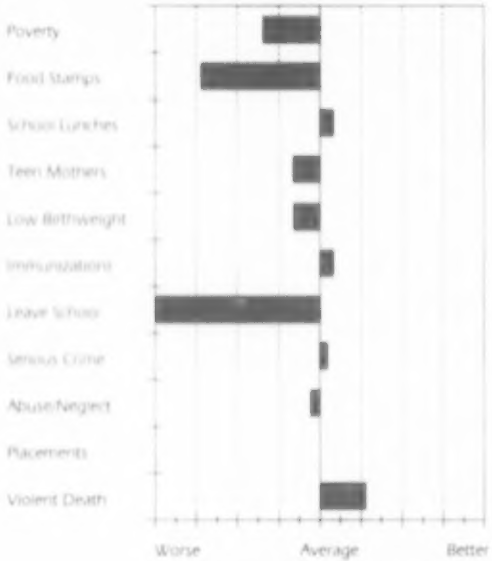
St. Louis County, the fifth largest county in the state, is located on the shore of Lake Superior in northeast Minnesota, part of the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Statistical Area. Portions of both the Fond du Lac and Boise Forte Indian Reservations are located in the county. Its 1996 per capita personal income was $21,687, the sixth highest in the state. The largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and retail. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased by over nine percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Close to the average county on many indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of children dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in St. Louis County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	9,087	*19%*	9,679	*20% ±4*	7,661	*16% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			9,763	*20%*	7,723	*16%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	9,135	*28%*	9,197	*28%*	9,420	*30%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	69		71	*19 (a)*	89	*17 (b)*	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	106	*5%*	109	*5%*	119	*6%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			882	*35%*	754	*31%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	673	*4%*	515	*3%*	578	*4%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	786	*45%*	742	*45%*	882	*46%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	510		287		348		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	1,400		1,490		1,167		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	11		8		3		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Scott

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	76,078
Estimated number of children, 1997	23,393
Estimated % children, 1997	30.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	18,916
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	23.7%
Projected population, 2005	87,850
Projected number of children, 2005	26,920

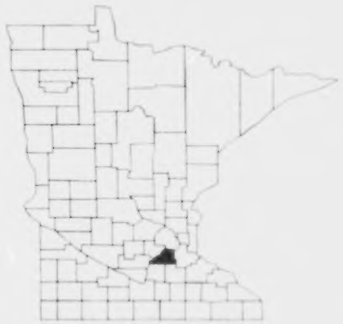
(children defined as under 18)

Scott County comprises the southwest edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area and is the tenth largest county in Minnesota. The Shakopee Mdewakanton Reservation is located within the county. Scott County's per capita personal income of $25,146 ranked eighth in the state. Services, construction, and durable goods manufacturing were the largest industries in Scott County in 1996. The construction industry was the fastest growing, increasing by over twenty-four percent since 1996.

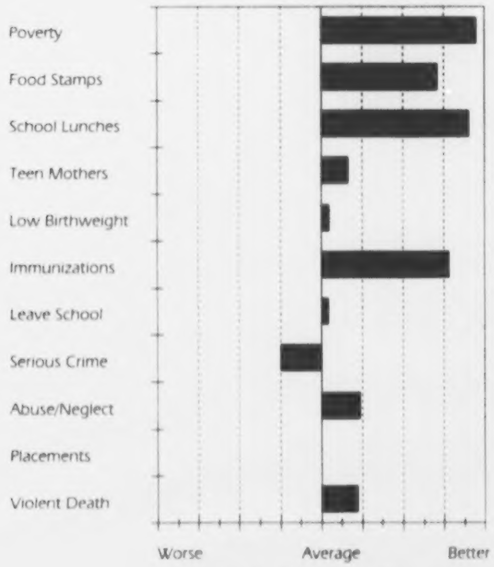
Positives: Better than the average county on almost all indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: None.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.



Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Scott County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	854	*5%*	1,242	*6% ±1*	1,023	*5% ±1*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			875	*4%*	732	*3%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,315	*13%*	1,597	*13%*	1,605	*12%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	19		24	*15* (a)	26	*13* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	57	*5%*	70	*5%*	70	*5%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			425	*34%*	322	*22%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	62	*1%*	37	*1%*	71	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	198	*54%*	264	*63%*	210	*55%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	140		134		121		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	101		127		169		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		2		2		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Sherburne

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	57,867
Estimated number of children, 1997	18,328
Estimated % children, 1997	31.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	14,073
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	30.2%
Projected population, 2005	68,960
Projected number of children, 2005	22,380

(children defined as under 18)

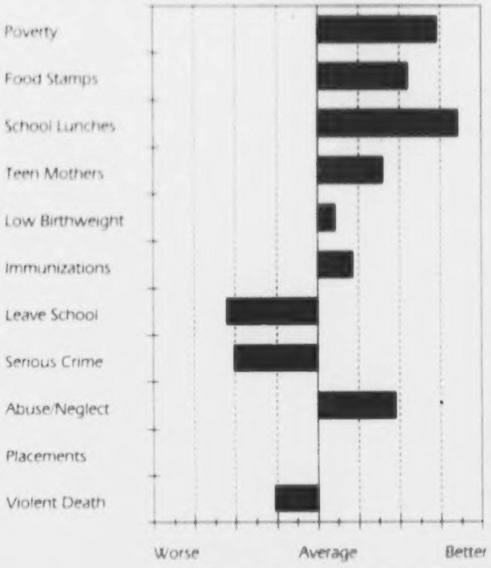
Sherburne County is located in central Minnesota, on the northern edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. It is the twelfth largest county in Minnesota, and had a per capita personal income of $19,466 in 1996, ranking fifty-eighth among Minnesota counties. Its largest industries were state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing, and transportation and public utilities. Retail trade was the fastest growing industry between 1995 and 1996, increasing by sixteen percent.

Positives: Better than average economic conditions for children.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of children dropping out of school and percentage of arrests of children for serious crimes.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Sherburne County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,016	*8%*	1,295	*8% ±2*	1,155	*6% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			905	*6%*	841	*5%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,363	*16%*	1,653	*16%*	1,607	*13%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	6		20	*15* (a)	19	*10* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	36	*5%*	45	*6%*	48	*5%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			336	*37%*	360	*30%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	119	*3%*	107	*2%*	131	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	121	*51%*	221	*71%*	195	*63%*	20,512	*48%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	41		66		62		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	63		51		137		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		4		5		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

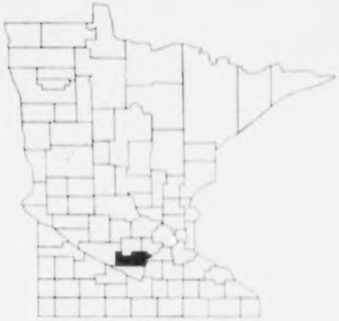
Sibley

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	14,575
Estimated number of children, 1997	4,062
Estimated % children, 1997	27.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,112
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-1.2%
Projected population, 2005	14,180
Projected number of children, 2005	3,750

(children defined as under 18)

Sibley County is a moderately small county located in south central Minnesota. Over six percent of school children in the county speak Spanish at home. The county had a 1996 per capita personal income of $20,025. This ranked the county fifty-fourth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1996 were state and local government, services, and construction. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing by over twelve percent from 1995 to 1996.

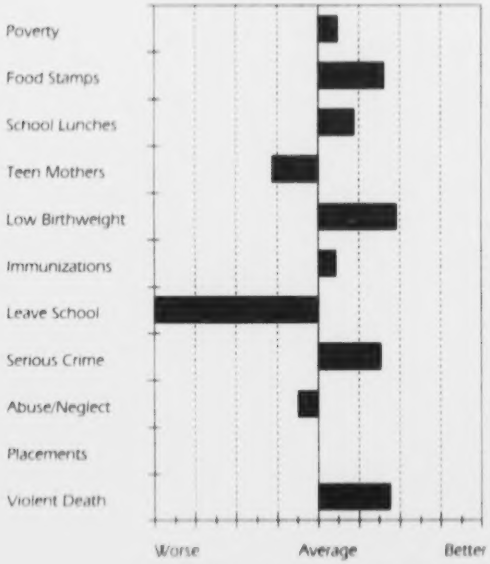


Positives: Lower than average percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of children dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Increase in the teen birth rate.

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Sibley County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	570	*0.14*	589	*14% ±3*	497	*12% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			339	*8%*	242	*6%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	528	*22%*	718	*28%*	756	*27%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	3		5	*13* (a)	8	*19* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	9	*5%*	7	*4%*	8	*4%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			79	*40%*	65	*31%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	26	*2%*	47	*4%*	50	*4%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	3	*18%*	1	*8%*	7	*35%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	37		27		32		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	25		28		20		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Stearns

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	127,540
Estimated number of children, 1997	35,890
Estimated % children, 1997	28.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	34,204
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	4.9%
Projected population, 2005	139,750
Projected number of children, 2005	43,420

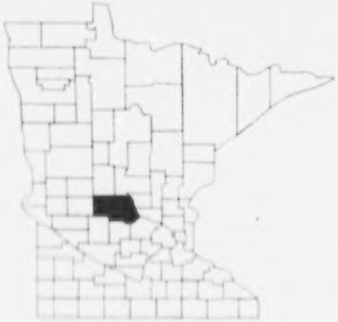
(children defined as under 18)

Stearns County is located in central Minnesota and is part of the St. Cloud Metropolitan Statistical Area. It is the seventh largest county in Minnesota. Stearns County's per capita personal income of $19,813 ranked fifty-fifth among Minnesota counties. Its largest industries in 1996 were services, retail, and state and local government. Non-durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing almost eleven percent from 1995 and 1996.

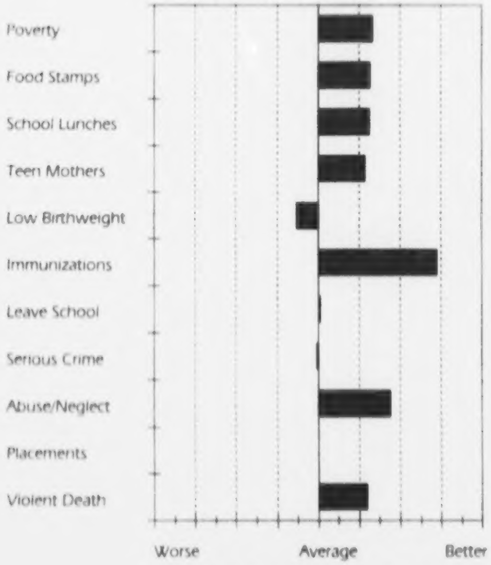
Positives: Average or better than the average county on most indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: None.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.



Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Stearns County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	4,313	*13%*	4,465	*12% ±3*	3,623	*10% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			2,777	*8%*	2,426	*7%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	6,862	*26%*	7,334	*26%*	6,980	*25%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	28		37	*15* (a)	31	*12* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	94	*6%*	111	*7%*	95	*6%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			567	*31%*	393	*23%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	135	*1%*	133	*1%*	172	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	674	*40%*	566	*41%*	681	*47%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	106		135		131		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	277		326		362		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	7		9		2		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

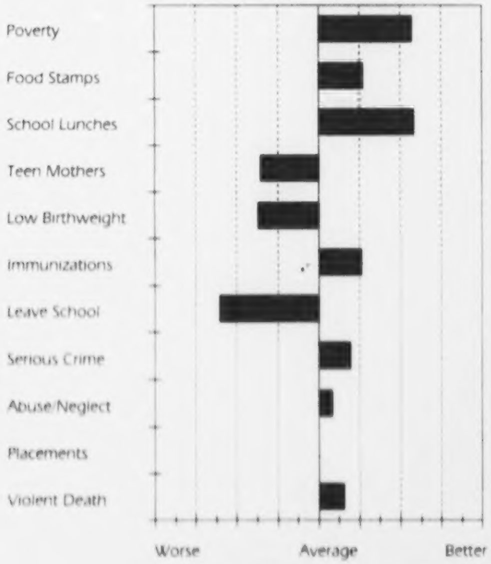
Steele

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	31,531
Estimated number of children, 1997	8,964
Estimated % children, 1997	28.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,130
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-1.8%
Projected population, 2005	32,570
Projected number of children, 2005	9,080

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Steele County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Steele County, in southeast Minnesota, is the twenty-ninth largest county in the state. Over seven percent of school children in the county speak a language other than English at home, mostly Spanish, Hmong or an African language. Steele County's 1996 per capita personal income of $24,191 was the ninth highest in the state. The largest industries in 1996 were durable goods manufacturing; services; and finance, insurance, and real estate. Finance, insurance and real estate was the fastest growing sector, increasing by seventeen percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Better than average economic conditions for children.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of children dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Increase in children born at low birth weight and percentage of children dropping out of school.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	748	*8%*	887	*10% ±2*	720	*8% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			640	*7%*	644	*7%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,181	*18%*	1,253	*21%*	1,191	*19%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	5		12	*18* (a)	17	*20* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	18	*4%*	26	*6%*	28	*7%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			182	*.34%*	155	*29%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	54	*2%*	67	*2%*	79	*3%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	75	*36%*	173	*58%*	94	*41%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	100		98		57		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	57		109		74		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		0		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

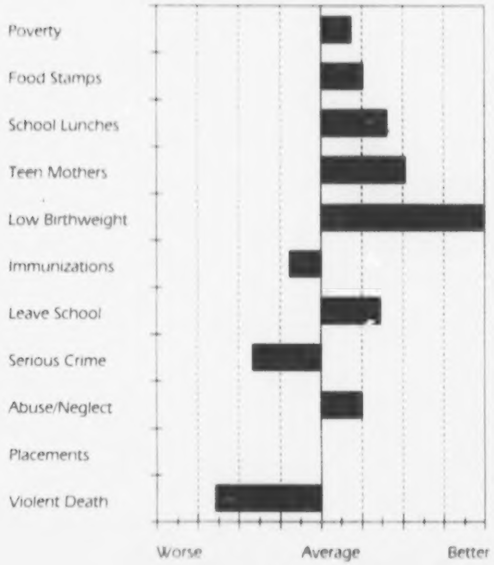
Stevens

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	10,138
Estimated number of children, 1997	2,360
Estimated % children, 1997	23.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,527
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-6.6%
Projected population, 2005	10,850
Projected number of children, 2005	3,170

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Stevens County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Stevens County is located in west central Minnesota and is the seventeenth smallest county in the state. In 1996, Stevens County had a per capita personal income of $21,504. This ranked the county thirtieth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were state and local government, services, and construction. The fastest growing industry was construction, which increased almost sixteen percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of low birth weight babies.

Concerns: None.

Trends to Watch: Increase in children not immunized.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	371	*15%*	315	*13% ±3*	272	*11% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			239	*10%*	173	*7%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	499	*26%*	481	*24%*	431	*23%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	3		1	*2 (a)*	3	9 (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	3	*3%*	6	*7%*	2	*2%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			35	*31%*	42	*35%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	1	*<1%*	6	*1%*	6	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	18	*42%*	34	*77%*	38	*60%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	5		4		12		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	15		16		14		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Swift

Swift County is a moderately small county located in west central Minnesota. The county's 1996 per capita personal income was $21,277, which ranked thirty-third among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Swift County in 1996 were state and local government, durable goods manufacturing, and services. Non-durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increased by 27% from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Close to the average county on many indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of children not immunized and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

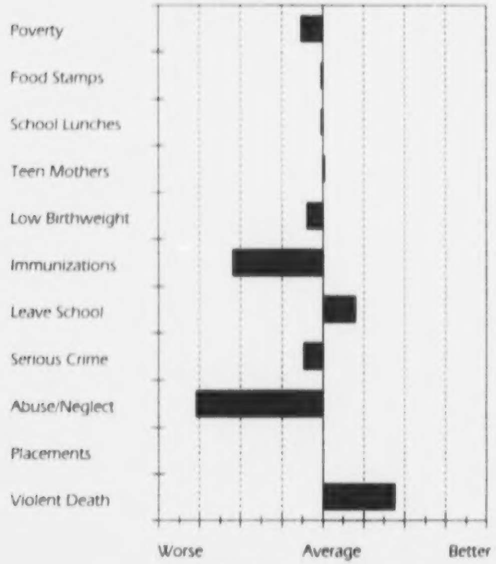
Trends to Watch: Reduction in percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced school lunch.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	10,826
Estimated number of children, 1997	2,740
Estimated % children, 1997	25.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,894
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-5.3%
Projected population, 2005	10,990
Projected number of children, 2005	2,600

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Swift County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	499	*18%*	473	*16% ±4*	400	*14% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			371	*13%*	269	*10%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	755	*35%*	789	*36%*	613	*32%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	1		3	*13* (a)	1	*15* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	3	*2%*	9	*7%*	8	*6%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			66	*42%*	87	*40%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	10	*1%*	10	*1%*	9	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	28	*51%*	34	*77%*	35	*51%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	28		42		35		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	20		38		31		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		2		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

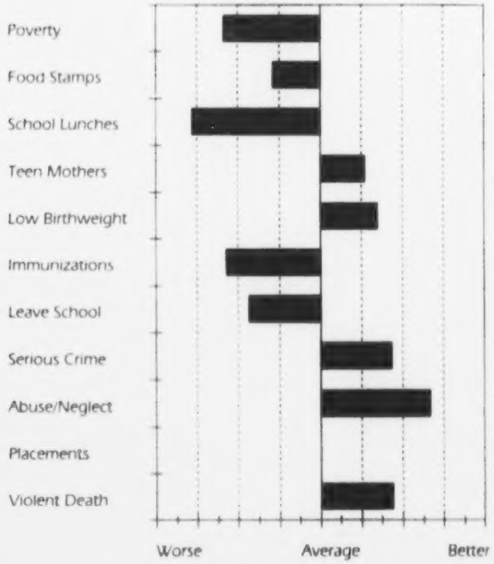
Todd

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	23,967
Estimated number of children, 1997	7,169
Estimated % children, 1997	29.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	7,143
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	0.4%
Projected population, 2005	22,920
Projected number of children, 2005	7,250

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Todd County



Compared to the Average County 1997

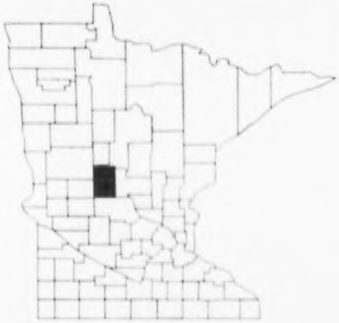
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Todd County is a mid-sized county in the central portion of Minnesota. The county's 1996 per capita personal income of $15,391 was the lowest in Minnesota. The largest industries in the county in 1996 were non-durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. Retail trade was the fastest growing industry, increasing almost seventeen percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Lower than average rates of substantiated child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Somewhat worse than average economic conditions for children.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.



	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,698	*23%*	1,517	*20% ±5*	1335	*18% ±4*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,041	*14%*	887	*12%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	2,280	*47%*	2,413	*46%*	2,537	*49%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	13		12	*18* (a)	8	*12* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	20	*6%*	18	*6%*	12	*4%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			138	*39%*	118	*40%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	40	*2%*	58	*2%*	60	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	43	*35%*	53	*49%*	30	*33%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	43		33		14		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	40		79		70		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

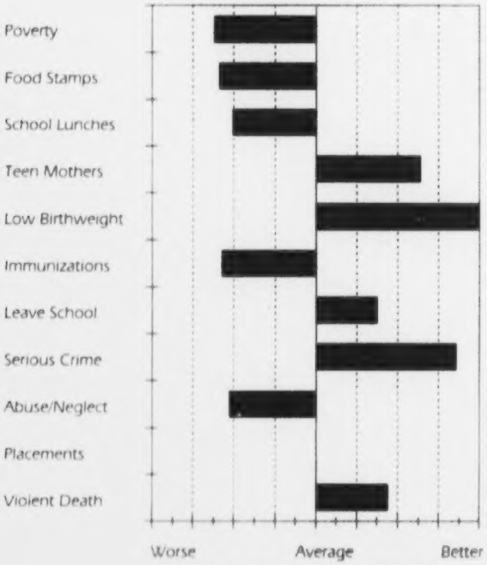
Traverse

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	4,279
Estimated number of children, 1997	1,100
Estimated % children, 1997	25.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,146
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-4.1%
Projected population, 2005	3,950
Projected number of children, 2005	1,040

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Traverse County



Compared to the Average County 1997
(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Traverse County is located in the west central part of the state on the South Dakota border. It is the smallest county in Minnesota. The county's 1996 per capita personal income of $25,166 ranked seventh among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1996 were state and local government, services, and retail. The fastest growing industry was retail, which increased by over ten percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Better than average teen birth rate, percentage of low birth weight babies and arrests of children for serious crime.

Concerns: Higher than average substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Trends to Watch: Increase in children not immunized.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	267	*22%*	217	*19% ±4*	210	*18% ±4*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			174	*15%*	167	*15%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	323	*39%*	296	*40%*	306	*43%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	0		0	*13* (a)	0	*7* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	3	*6%*	2	*4%*	0		3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			7	*29%*	22	*40%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	0		1	*<1%*	2	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	9	*53%*	1	*17%*	1	*20%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	10		11		12		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	9		9		7		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

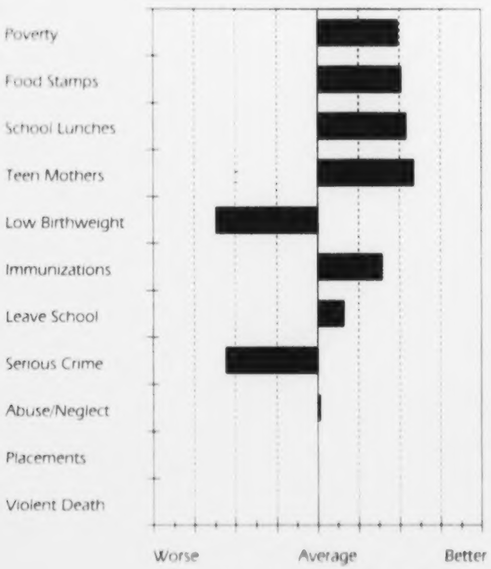
Wabasha

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	20,748
Estimated number of children, 1997	5,847
Estimated % children, 1997	28.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,782
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	1.1%
Projected population, 2005	20,570
Projected number of children, 2005	5,700

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Wabasha County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Wabasha County is a mid-sized county located in southeast Minnesota along the Mississippi River. The county's 1996 per capita personal income of $20,780 ranked thirty-ninth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. Durable goods manufacturing was also the fastest growing industry, increasing at a rate of eight percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: better than average economic conditions for children, and better than average teen birth rate.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of low birth weight babies and percentage of arrests of children for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Increase in low birth weight babies.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	582	*10%*	629	*10% ±2*	512	*9% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			379	*6%*	293	*5%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	898	*20%*	899	*21%*	884	*20%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	6		5	*10* (a)	1	*8* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	8	*3%*	11	*4%*	17	*8%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			141	*38%*	84	*27%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	12	*1%*	22	*1%*	21	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	22	*45%*	12	*32%*	35	*65%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	36		23		40		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	51		81		101		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

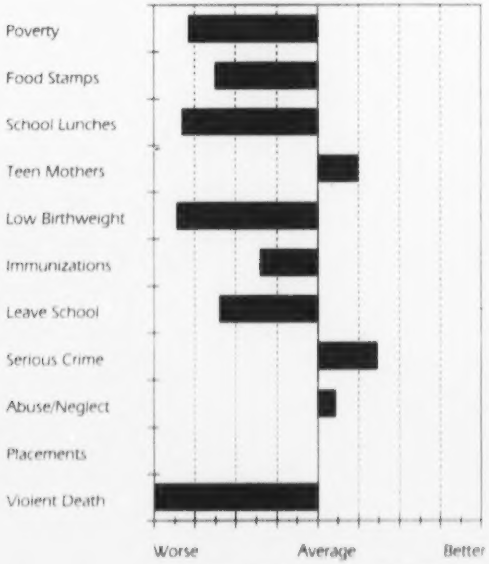
Wadena

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	12,955
Estimated number of children, 1997	3,569
Estimated % children, 1997	27.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,691
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-3.3%
Projected population, 2005	13,490
Projected number of children, 2005	3,540

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Wadena County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Wadena County is a moderately small county in the north central portion of Minnesota. Wadena County's 1996 per capita personal income of $16,837 ranked eighth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was wholesale trade, which increased by almost thirteen percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Teen birth rate and number of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect are close to the average county.

Concerns: Worse than average economic conditions for children and worse percentage of low birth weight babies.

Trends to Watch: Increase in children born at low birth weight.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	899	*24%*	853	*23% ±5*	735	*20% ±5*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			702	*19%*	553	*15%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,474	*47%*	1,614	*49%*	1,656	*50%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	5		8	*19* (a)	5	*12* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	6	*3%*	8	*5%*	13	*8%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			143	*53%*	88	*37%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	13	*1%*	36	*2%*	42	*3%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	46	*28%*	43	*29%*	56	*36%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	89		34		22		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	78		64		66		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		1		2		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

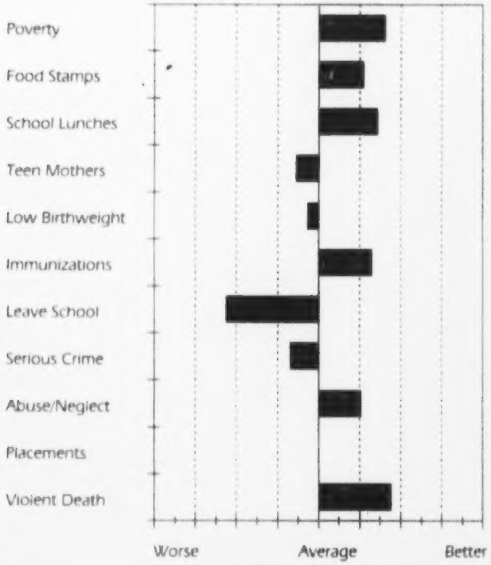
Waseca

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	18,168
Estimated number of children, 1997	5,181
Estimated % children, 1997	28.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,302
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-2.3%
Projected population, 2005	17,600
Projected number of children, 2005	4,740

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Waseca County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Waseca County is a mid-sized county located in the southeast portion of Minnesota. The county's per capita personal income of $20,847 ranked thirty-eighth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1996 were non-durable goods manufacturing, durable goods manufacturing, and services. The durable goods manufacturing sector was the fastest growing industry, increasing by ten percent from 1995 to 1996.

Positives: Better than or close to the average county on most indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of children dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Increase in number of children immunized.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	562	*11%*	624	*12% ±3*	494	*9% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			436	*8%*	372	*7%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	945	*23%*	1,219	*26%*	1,080	*24%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	4		7	*16* (a)	8	*17* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	11	*5%*	12	*6%*	14	*6%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			93	*35%*	75	*28%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	27	*2%*	45	*2%*	53	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	23	*92%*	9	*50%*	31	*53%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	38		20		26		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	53		43		34		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		2		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

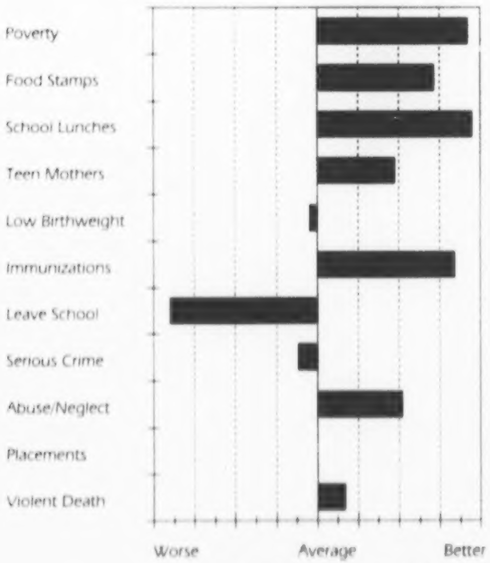
Washington

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	191,548
Estimated number of children, 1997	57,377
Estimated % children, 1997	30.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	47,156
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	21.7%
Projected population, 2005	221,250
Projected number of children, 2005	65,190

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Washington County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Washington County is in the eastern part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area and borders Wisconsin. Washington County is the sixth largest county in Minnesota. Its 1996 per capita personal income of $26,706 was the fifth highest in the state. Durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government were the largest industries in 1996. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased thirty percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Better than average economic conditions for children.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of children dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	2,722	*6%*	3,293	*6% ±1*	2683	*5% ±1*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			2,296	*4%*	1,769	*3%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	3,185	*11%*	3,692	*12%*	3,911	*11%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	45		46	*12 (a)*	43	9 (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	104	*5%*	132	*5%*	149	*6%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			808	*33%*	558	*22%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	501	*4%*	376	*3%*	507	*3%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	747	*53%*	723	*56%*	617	*51%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	219		148		175		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	371		432		448		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	7		5		6		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Watonwan

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	11,742
Estimated number of children, 1997	3,236
Estimated % children, 1997	27.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,546
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-8.7%
Projected population, 2005	11,160
Projected number of children, 2005	3,000

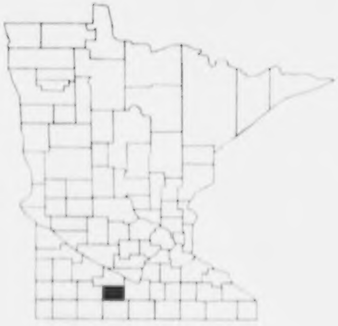
(children defined as under 18)

Watonwan County is a moderately small county located in the south central portion of Minnesota, near the Iowa border. About twenty percent of school children in the county speak Spanish at home. Its 1996 per capita personal income was $20,478, which ranked forty-fourth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were non-durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was non-durable goods manufacturing, which increased by almost twenty-nine percent between 1995 and 1996.

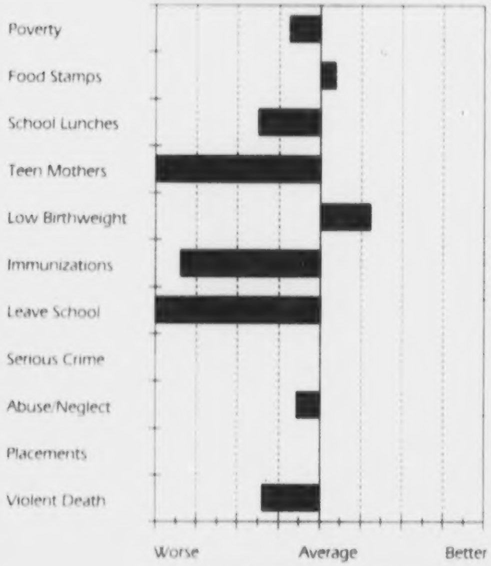
Positives: Lower than average county for low birth weight babies.

Concerns: Worse than average rate of teen births and percentage of children dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of children dropping out of school.



Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Watonwan County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	509	*15%*	536	*16% ±4*	479	*15% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			371	*10%*	287	*9%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	727	*34%*	827	*38%*	863	*40%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	5		10	45 (a)	19	43 (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	11	*6%*	7	*4%*	8	*4%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			76	*55%*	82	*44%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	16	*2%*	25	*2%*	41	*4%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	26	*42%*	57	*59%*	41	*47%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	29		38		26		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	37		58		69		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		0		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

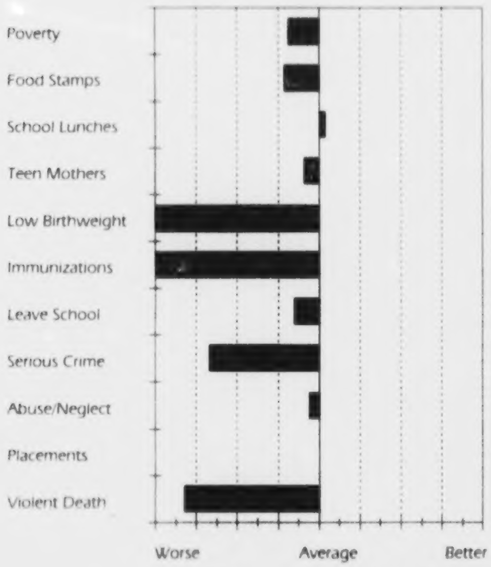
Wilkin

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	7,367
Estimated number of children, 1997	2,031
Estimated % children, 1997	27.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,128
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-4.6%
Projected population, 2005	6,980
Projected number of children, 2005	1,790

(children defined as under 18)

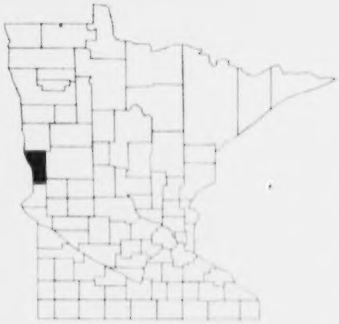
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Wilkin County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Wilkin County is located in west central Minnesota on the North Dakota border. It is the tenth smallest county in the state. About four percent of school children in the county speak Spanish at home. Its 1996 per capita personal income of $22,545 ranked seventeenth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries were services, state and local government and retail. The fastest growing industry was wholesale trade, which increased almost ten percent between 1995 and 1996.



Positives: Many indicators of well-being are close to the average county.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of children born at low birth weight and children not immunized.

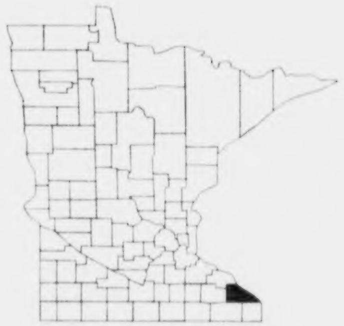
Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced price school lunch.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	403	*19%*	356	*17% ±4*	299	*15% ±4*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			365	*17%*	237	*12%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	562	*35%*	619	*36%*	504	*31%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	4		2	*21* (a)	2	*17* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	5	*5%*	3	*3%*	11	*10%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			60	*51%*	51	*46%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	8	*1%*	14	*2%*	13	*2%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	56	*67%*	65	*60%*	52	*68%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	35		19		15		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	41		56		31		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		0		1		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Winona

Winona, the eighteenth largest county, is located in southeastern Minnesota, bordering the Mississippi River. Almost five percent of school children speak a language other than English at home. The per capita personal income of Winona County was $21,108 in 1996, ranking thirty-fifth in the state. The largest industries in the county were services, durable goods manufacturing, and non-durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was wholesale trade, which increased almost thirteen percent between 1995 and 1996.



Positives: Better than average percentage of children fully immunized.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of children dropping out of school.

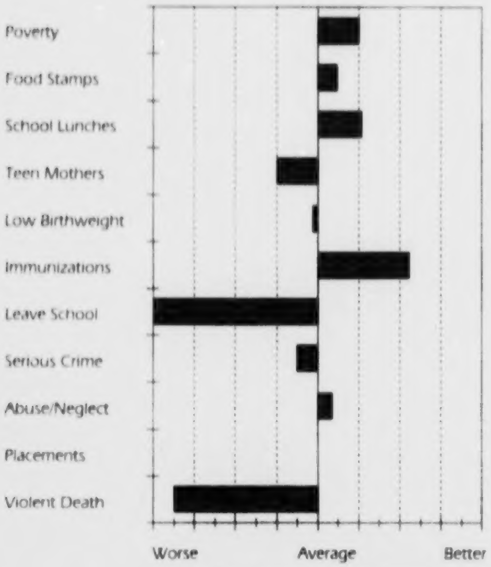
Trends to Watch: Most indicators are stable over time.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	48,262
Estimated number of children, 1997	11,713
Estimated % children, 1997	24.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	11,910
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-1.7%
Projected population, 2005	50,760
Projected number of children, 2005	14,480

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Winona County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,427	*12%*	1,562	*13% ±3*	1,282	*11% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,120	9%	1,008	9%	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	1,855	*23%*	1,933	*25%*	2,073	*26%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	21		9	*19* (a)	17	*19* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	38	6%	24	4%	32	5%	3,801	6%
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			217	*34%*	159	25%	22,023	32%
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	114	4%	118	4%	142	4%	14,989	4%
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	142	37%	212	*57%*	216	*51%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	69		89		74		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	67		71		65		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		1		6		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Wright

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	83,156
Estimated number of children, 1997	26,709
Estimated % children, 1997	32.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	23,230
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	15.0%
Projected population, 2005	89,840
Projected number of children, 2005	28,070

(children defined as under 18)

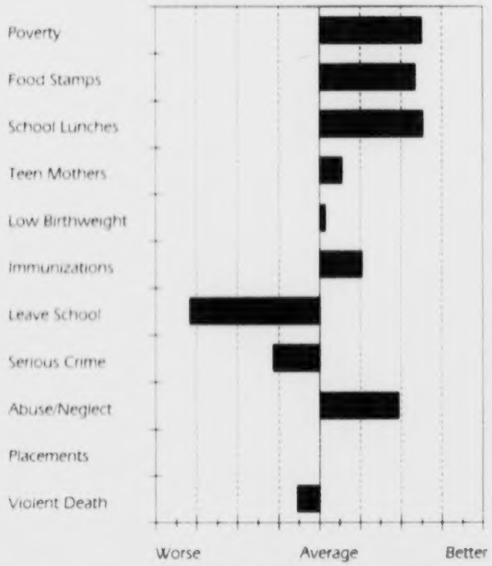
Wright County is located in the western portion of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area. It is the ninth largest county in Minnesota. Wright County had a 1996 per capita personal income of $22,142, which ranked twenty-second among Minnesota counties. Its largest industries in 1996 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was wholesale trade, increasing by seventeen percent between 1995 and 1996.

Positives: Better than average economic conditions for children.

Concerns: Worse than average percentage of children dropping out of school.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children not immunized.

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Wright County



Compared to the Average County 1997

(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,858	*8%*	2,323	*9% ±2*	1,940	*7% ±2*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,594	*6%*	1,144	*4%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	2,591	*17%*	3,001	*19%*	3,233	*18%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	24		36	*15* (a)	27	*14* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	51	*4%*	41	*3%*	66	*5%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			573	*41%*	423	*29%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	118	*2%*	123	*2%*	242	*3%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	50	*15%*	295	*56%*	375	*56%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	119		101		88		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	244		363		317		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	4		10		6		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

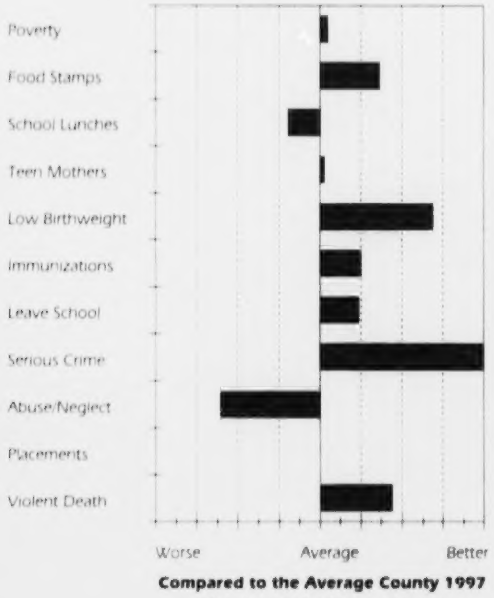
Yellow Medicine

Demographics

Estimated population, 1997	11,573
Estimated number of children, 1997	3,045
Estimated % children, 1997	26.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,180
% change in number of children, 1991-1997	-4.2%
Projected population, 2005	10,790
Projected number of children, 2005	2,750

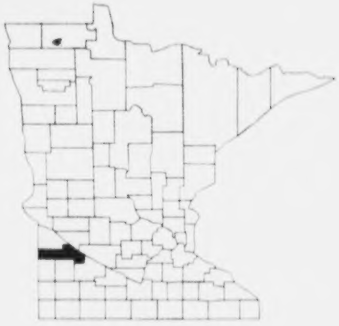
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Yellow Medicine County



(definitions for the data are on p. 111)

Yellow Medicine County is a moderately small county located on the South Dakota border in the southwestern portion of Minnesota. The Upper Sioux Indian Reservation is located within its borders. Its 1996 per capita personal income of $21,440 ranks thirty-second among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1996 were state and local government, services, and durable goods manufacturing. From 1995 to 1996, the fastest growing industry was construction, which increased by almost nine percent.



Positives: Better than average or close to the average county for most indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Worse than average number of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced price school lunch.

	1991		1994		1997		1997 State	
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	657	*21%*	525	*16% ±4*	390	*12% ±3*	148,434	*12% ±1*
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			345	*11%*	193	*6%*	139,054	*11%*
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (school years 91-92, 94-95, 97-98) (<185% poverty)	888	*37%*	933	*40%*	840	*36%*	238,723	*28%*
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers	4		3	*19* (a)	3	*15* (b)	2,011	18 (b)
Children born at low birth weight	4	*3%*	6	*5%*	4	*3%*	3,801	*6%*
Children not fully immunized by age 2 (c)			67	*42%*	31	*29%*	22,023	*32%*
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 91-92, 94-95, 96-97)	10	*1%*	13	*1%*	10	*1%*	14,989	*4%*
Children arrested for serious crime (% of all arrests)	13	*45%*	18	*49%*	2	*13%*	20,512	*48%*
Children abused and neglected	21		37		35		10,777	
Children in out-of-home placements	30		45		62		18,381	
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		190	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1995-1997 rate per 1,000 (c) 1992, 1995

Data Notes

Demographic Information. Population estimates are from the U.S. Census Bureau. Population projections are from the Office of the State Demographer. Unemployment rates are from the U.S. Department of Labor. Statistics about the primary language spoken at home are from the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning. All other economic statistics are from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Data about Children of Color. Data about children of color are collected using many different methods. Parents might identify their race or the race of their children, race may be determined by others based on a visual determination, or a combination of these methods may be used. Furthermore, different categories are used to classify children by race. Some indicators treat "Hispanic" as a separate ethnic designation rather than a race, while others do not.

Accepted names for various racial and ethnic groups are constantly in flux and once again, indicators differ in their terminology. KIDS COUNT has tried to use widely accepted terms that generally match the categories in which most of the data is collected.

Finally, children of color are often undercounted and unmeasured. Families may be mistrustful of providing information to the government. Children of migrant farm workers may not be adequately represented because they are only in Minnesota part of the year. Data collectors may not be fluent in the parent's language or may determine race for a child incorrectly. Thus, data about children of color in Minnesota should be interpreted with caution.

Children in Poverty is the estimated number of children under 18 whose families have incomes below the federal poverty line. It is provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. These estimates have significant margins of error, which are denoted by a "±" after the estimate. (For example, a rate of 14% ±2 means that there is a 95% certainty that the actual poverty rate is between 12% and 16%.)

Children Receiving Food Stamps is the monthly average of all persons receiving food stamps divided by the US Department of Agriculture's estimate of the percentage of those recipients who are children (51%). It is provided by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. The percentage of children receiving food stamps is the estimated number of children receiving food stamps divided by the estimated total number of children.

Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Lunches is the number of children who have been approved to receive these meals in October of each school year. It is provided by the Minnesota

(continued on page 112)

Data Notes, continued from page 111

Department of Children, Families and Learning. Public and many private schools are represented. School districts are assigned to the county where their district offices are located. Not all eligible children participate in this program. The percentage of children eligible is the number of children approved for meals divided by the total school enrollment.

Children Born to Teenage Mothers is the number of infants born to women who were less than age 18 at the time of the child's birth. It is provided by The Center for Health Statistics of the Minnesota Department of Health, based on information collected from birth certificates. The rate of these births is a combined three year average of the number of these births per 1,000 women ages 15-17, in order to obtain large enough numbers for this rate to be calculated for all counties.

Children Born at Low Birth Weight is the number of babies weighing less than 2500 grams (5.5 pounds) at birth. It is provided by The Center for Health Statistics of the Minnesota Department of Health, based on information collected from birth certificates. The percentage of children born at low birth weight is the number of low birth weight children divided by the total number of births.

Children Who Were Not Fully Immunized By Age 2 is the number of kindergarten students in the 1995-96 school year who had not been immunized by age two. It is provided through a retrospective survey by the Minnesota Department of Health. The percentage of children not fully immunized is the number of un-immunized children divided by the total number of kindergarten students.

Children with School Readiness Problems is the number of children identified by early childhood screening programs for developmental problems, hearing and/or vision problems, growth problems, lack of immunization or health care coverage and other health concerns. Not all school districts reported accurately; thus, 1997-98 data is provided only at the regional level and includes only districts that provided an accurate report.

Children Dropping Out of School is the number of students who were enrolled in school during the previous school year and were not enrolled by October 1 of the current school year. It is provided by the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning. This definition was new as of the 1993-94 school year; previously, a student was counted as "dropping out" if they were not enrolled by the beginning of the next school year. School districts are assigned to the county where their district offices are located. The percentage of students dropping out is the number of students dropping out divided by the total enrollment of grades 7-12.

Children Arrested for Serious Crime is the number of children arrested for Part I crimes: murder, negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, vehicle theft and arson. It is provided by the Criminal Justice Center at Minnesota Planning, from statistics collected by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. The percentage of children arrested for serious crime is the number of children arrested divided by the total number of children and adults arrested for serious crime.

Children Abused and Neglected is the number of children for whom a report of child abuse or neglect was substantiated by a county child protection worker. It is provided by the Minnesota Department of Human Services from statistics collected by counties. Substantiated abuse means that the local social service agency has conducted an assessment in response to a report and has found that maltreatment occurred.

Children in Out-of-Home Placements is the unduplicated number of children who spent time in foster care, group homes, emergency shelter or residential treatment facilities during the year. It is provided by the Minnesota Department of Human Services from statistics collected by counties.

Children Dying from Homicide, Suicide and Injury is the number of children dying from murder, suicide and other injuries such as motor vehicle crashes, drowning and falls. It is provided by the Center for Health Statistics at the Minnesota Department of Health, using information on death certificates.

About the Bar Graphs for Counties

The graphs allow comparison of multiple indicators within a county. At a glance, you are also able to see how a county compares to the state average for each indicator. The "Minnesota Average" is the mean of all the county data points. Each thinner line represents one standard deviation above or below the average.

Comparing distributions that are expressed in different units is accomplished by using standard scores also known as z-scores. Standard scores are generated for each indicator by computing the difference between each data point and the mean (the sum of all county values divided by the number of counties) and dividing it by the standard deviation (a measure of the degree to which the scores cluster around the mean.) The resulting z-score has a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of one.

Minnesota Kids: A Closer Look

kids
count
minnesota

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